

The Friend

Happy New Year

2024

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and
be gracious unto you.*

*May the Lord look upon you with favor and
give you peace.*

January

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GROW & WORSHIP

Growth in the New Year

Eric Nelson, Pastor

"O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life." -Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ELW 517

Often the new year begins with resolutions and hopes for good things to come. We often take part in this in our home as well, setting new goals for the year, aiming to make improvements for the sake of better living.

All these are good things, but I think there is an additional dimension we can add to our new year goals and resolutions. Instead of simply exercising more, eating out less, or whatever other good personal goals can be achieved we can also name additional purposes alongside those goals that look outward: exercising more so one can be more active and present with family and friends, eating out less in order to use those funds to feed others, taking time for sabbath and rest so one can bring their full self to family and work.

Each of us is important enough that this self-care and improvement matters. But, similar to our freedom from sin which allows us to do the good things God calls us to do, we can use these self-improvements to bring goodness around us.

Our Christmas season ends on January 6 in Epiphany. This whole Christmas season is about remembering how God came to be among us and with us. In this, God was revealed to us through Jesus Christ in the flesh. As we continue in the season of Epiphany, we consider the depth of what this means that God would come to be among the people, speaking, teaching, and healing.

In Christ, the ways of God are shown and known. Often, we pray lofty prayers like that from the hymn above, asking for peace on earth. I will confess, it does seem daunting to even hope for such things. But we must remember that as we continue to grow as disciples for our own sake and for the sake of our neighbor, we can be better equipped to be agents of peace and unity in our own communities. These things are possible in the work of God in us and with us.

Our growth as faithful followers is meant for the good work of God in the world.

Many ask why God would choose to take on human form. The theological wonderings and questions can go on and on. But one truth is that God's ways needed to be shown to the people in ways we could best understand.

We may not know how to end war, but perhaps we can learn how to feed people on a hillside. We may not know how to improve diplomatic relations and unity for our highest leaders, but perhaps we can see how Christ speaks lovingly with everyone he meets and learn to do the same. We may have so many questions that remain bigger than ourselves and our understandings, but as we grow in personal goals and discipleship we can be better equipped to follow and trust that God will work well with the gifts God has given us to share with our neighbors.

I pray growth for you in another new year, knowing God's love and purpose for you in any season and trusting that our work as disciples matters for the good of God's people and world.

Grateful

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

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

Psalms 86:12

Grace and Peace to you this New Year!

Grateful...which according to the dictionary means 'feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful.' The last couple of months, it has been the single word I have used to express the feeling in my heart. I am blessed to have many things to be grateful for...on the top of the list is the opportunity to work here and walk alongside children and youth on their faith journeys.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support of our Children & Youth at their Holiday Market! You helped them raise \$444 for various activities! A special thank you to all of the hard work of the kids and their parents who made that sale run so smoothly!

A huge round of applause to the children in the Christmas Pageant!

Ava Havon - <i>Editor-in-chief</i>	<i>Choir of Angels:</i>
Owen Nelson - <i>Reporter Fred</i>	Alice Browne, Ephram Browne, Frances Browne,
Kacey Erwin - <i>Reporter Joyce</i>	Kacey Erwin, Tessa Erwin, Mia Gabrielson, Emmy
Alice Browne - <i>Reporter Connie</i>	Goldenstein, Ava Havon, Luke Mesenbourg, Alyson
Frances Browne - <i>Shepherd</i>	Mickolich, Leo Morton, Rachel Munsterman, Declan
Stella Hovde - <i>Shepherd</i>	Nelson, Finn Nelson, Owen Nelson, Phillip Nestrud
Rachel Munsterman - <i>Shepherd</i>	and Scarlett Thomson
Ephram Browne - <i>Innkeeper</i>	
Emmy Goldenstein - <i>Mary</i>	
Declan Nelson - <i>Joseph</i>	
Tessa Erwin - <i>Angel</i>	

A special thank you to Tasha Browne for her beautiful gift of piano music for the pageant, and a huge thank you to Alex, Owen and Payton Kozarek for their help behind the scenes! The pageant was a huge success! I hope you were able to see it, but if you haven't, please look back on our recorded worship services and enjoy!

I pray that you find time to see God and give thanks with a grateful heart this new year and always.

GROW & SERVE

Happy New Year!

Brian Munsterman, President

Happy New Year! This is a time when resolutions for the new promising year ahead are made and a time to look forward. For now, though, I will look back at all that was accomplished last year as we accomplished many wonderful things! We have a new constitution! We were able to build a much-needed garage, fix the roof, and build new raised beds for the gardens. We continue to have wonderful outreach to the community through the food and clothing shelf, the Wednesday meals, and so much more. We have new projectors and new screens. We have a wonderful Wednesday work crew and a great year with the 55 and under crew. We also have a great staff and fabulous pastors. We have much to be thankful for. Our church always truly amazes me, and I am grateful to be part of it. I can't wait to see all that will be done this coming year! I wish everyone peace and prosperity this year.

Board of Administration Meeting Highlights



- Financially in the black going into the new year.

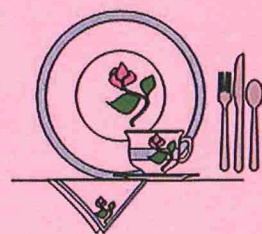
Thank You from the Benevolence Committee

As we end the year and begin a new one, the Benevolence Committee would like to thank the congregation for their support shown throughout the year. Because of your donations, we provided school supplies and coats to our schools, fed many families for Thanksgiving, and provided gifts to over 100 children at Christmas. We ask a lot and are never disappointed!

In 2024, in addition to our regular activities, we look forward to adding a Global Health project. Once again, thank you for your support and generosity!

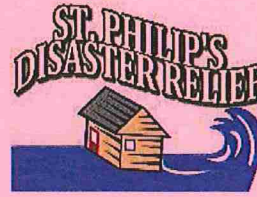
Festival of Tables

Save the date: Festival of Tables will be held on April 13, 2024. More information to follow soon. Think about decorating a table!



W. Kentucky and Middle Tennessee Natural Disasters

St. Philip's Disaster Relief



For the past several years, western Kentucky and middle Tennessee have been in the bullseye for natural disasters - the 2010 Nashville flood, the 2016 Gatlinburg fire, and the 2020 Nashville/Cookeville tornadoes to name a few.

More recently, in August 2021, 17" of rain caused a major flash flood in Waverly, TN resulting in 22 deaths and creating millions of dollars in damage. In 2022-2023, the SPDR ministry sent three teams to Waverly to assist in the rebuilding.

On December 10, 2021, western Kentucky was struck by several tornadoes, affecting many communities. One of the tornadoes was on the ground for over 165 miles. Overall, the 190 mph winds caused the death of 57 people and injured over 500. In Mayfield alone, more than 4,000 structures were damaged or destroyed. The SPDR ministry sent a team to Mayfield in October 2023 to assist in the rebuilding and in April 2024, another team will be dispatched to the Mayfield area to continue to assist.

Just a couple of weeks ago, on December 9th, six tornadoes struck Tennessee. One of the funnels, 600 yards wide and traveling for 11 miles, destroyed many homes and businesses in the Clarksville, TN area, about 50 miles northwest of Nashville, and Hendersonville, a northeast suburb of Nashville. Six individuals died. The SPDR ministry has donated \$2,000, through Thrivent Financial, to Inspiritus Disaster Relief Services to provide long-term recovery assistance for those impacted by these tornadoes. Thrivent added a 50% match, making this donation \$3,000 total.

Of interest, all these locations are within a 100-mile radius of each other. Please keep our neighbors in this region in your prayers.

SPDR has set April 20 – 28, 2024 as dates for a second trip to Mayfield, KY to continue to assist in the rebuilding efforts in the area. SPDR has been communicating with the Tennessee United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) concerning registration, jobs, and team lodging for the April trip. Additional trip and registration information will be provided via E-News and the *Friend* in March 2024.

Thank you for your continued support, both through financial contributions and prayerful thought.

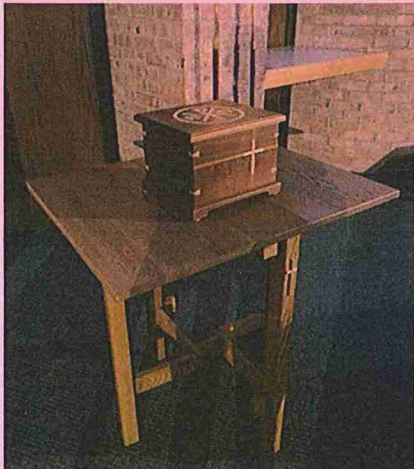
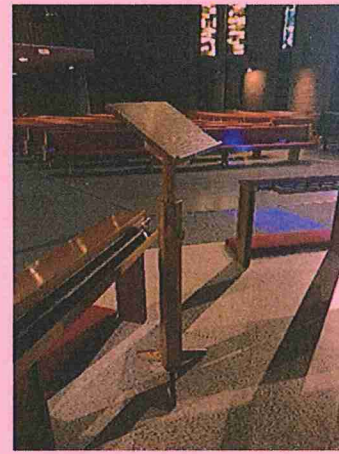
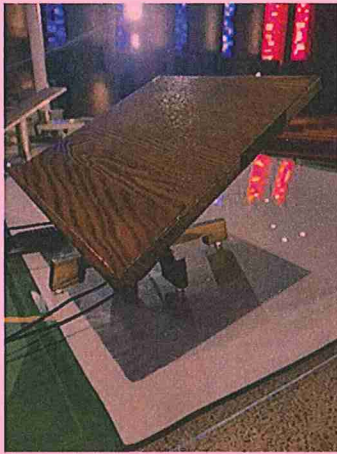
The Journey Continues

GROW & SERVE

The Legacy of Art at St. Philip's

Another talented woodworker at St. Philip's is Spence Minear. Items used every Sunday in the Sanctuary include the book holder on the altar, small communion tables, portable lectern, the stand for Noah's Ark, and the box covering the audio panel.

Spence also created a table used for funerals, the wooden urn box and a box mounted on the wall in the narthex that safely holds funeral cards and memorials.



New Books in the Library!

1. *Dear Jacob: A Mother's Journey of Hope* by Patty Wetterling. On October 22, 1989, in the small town of St Joseph, MN, 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling was kidnapped at gunpoint. Twenty-seven years later Danny Heinrich led authorities to the boy's remains. Between those two dates is the story of the search for Jacob led by his mother Patty.
2. *The First Ladies* by Victoria Christopher Murray. In this historical novel, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune form an unlikely friendship that changed the world.
3. *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. In 1939 Rill Foss and her four younger siblings are taken from their parents' Mississippi River shantyboat and delivered to the Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage. Rill fights to keep them together. In present day South Carolina. Avery Stafford, a wealthy and successful federal prosecutor, is forced to take a journey through her family's hidden history.
4. *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. Imagine a year without Christmas. No crowded shopping malls, no parties, and no unwanted presents. That is just what Luther and Nora Krank decide to do just this once. No house decorations, no Christmas tree. They won't need one because this year on December 25th they are headed on a Caribbean Cruise. But this couple is about to discover it isn't as easy as it sounds.
5. *The Lore of Uncle Foggy* by Clarence Tolg. Reminiscences as told to Allen Gray, Munsingwear, WCCO Radio, 1971. Philosophy and some practical advice from a Fine Old Gentleman.
6. *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. At the end of WWII, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single investment to begin an enormous real estate empire propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. Cyril's son, Danny and his sister Maeve, are exiled from the house by their stepmother and back into poverty. They find all they have to count on is each other.
7. *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy. A modern illustrated fable for all ages that explores life's universal lessons. Hand-printed graphic, "Soldatenmarsch" (2nd movement from Robert Schumann's "Album fur die Jugend") is printed on the endpapers.
8. *Voices in the Stones: Life Lessons from the Native Way* by Kent Nerburn. The genius of the Native Americans has always been their spirituality and their deep understanding of the land and its ways. For three decades author Kent Nerburn has lived and worked among the Native American people. This book is an unique collection of his encounters, experiences, and reflections during that time.
9. *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. Ruth Jefferson is a black experienced labor and delivery nurse. When a white couple refuses to have her attend to their white baby, it changes her career and her life forever. The issue of race dominates the novel.
10. *Footprints in Courage* by Kristin Gilpatrick. A Bataan Death March survivor's story told by Army Air Corps staff Sergeant Alf Larson was one of 7,500 American servicemen whose courageous and tortured footprints mark the bloody pages of WWII history as participants in the infamous week-long forced hike that became known as The Bataan Death March.

GROW & SERVE

Endowment Fund

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Be a Blessing to Future Generations!

Gifts were received in memory and honor of

Char Fauteck

Earl Hatten

Thelma Nash

Roger & Marlene Sonstegard

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!

Financials

St. Philip's 2023	Actual November	Actual YTD
Income	\$65,591.94	\$675,639.56
Expense	(\$60,412.46)	(\$668,712.16)
TOTALS	\$5,179.48	\$6,927.40

Life Events



Ronald and Marlene Hirth on 1/28/1961 for 63 years

John and Josephine Riley on 1/5/1961 for 63 years

Richard and Laurel Harris on 1/27/1962 for 62 years

Roger and Sandra Goman on 1/26/1963 for 61 years

Tom and DeeDee Kozlak on 1/28/1967 for 57 years

Susan and David Nelson on 1/1/1982 for 42 years

Dennis and DeeAnn Gritti on 1/15/2000 for 24 years

Dane and Dena Froiland on 1/10/2004 for 20 years

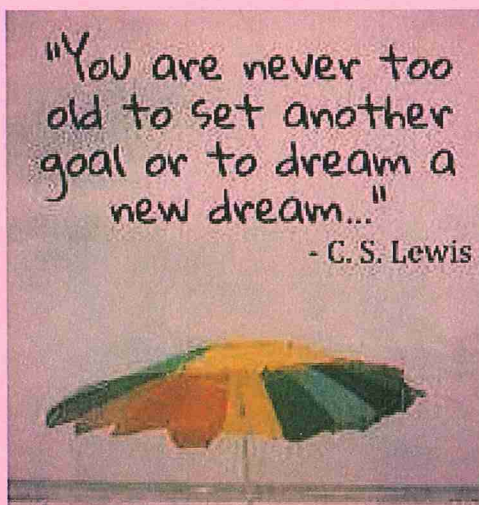


The friends and family of:

David Fennig



Friendly Takeaway



St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

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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

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CheriS@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Curt Morales, Sanctuary Choir Director

CurtM@splcmn.org

Julie Lueck, Organist

Julie@splcmn.org

Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Handbell Director

Dawng48@hotmail.com

Rianna Swenstad, Nursery Ministry Worker

Ryan Gorka, A/V Technician

Paden Swenstad, 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

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Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack

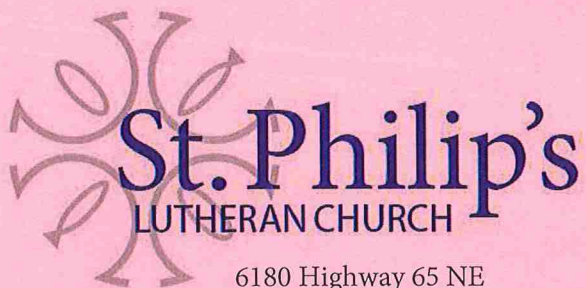
Companion Congregation:

Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

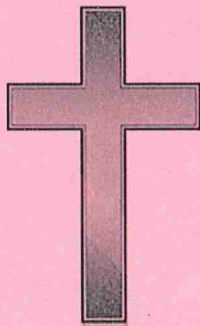
January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed 7:00 pm Gambler Anonymous Mtg.	2 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	3 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15pm Community Supper 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	4 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	5 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf 7:00 pm AA	6
7 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	8 Annual Reports Due 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg - 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 7:00 pm Gambler Anonymous Mtg.; Gam-Anon Mtg.	9 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:00 pm Heritage Group Mtg.; Benevolence Committee Mtg. 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	10 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg.; Women's Book Club 1:00 pm Walking Alone Together 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15pm Community Supper 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	11 1:00 pm Endowment Committee Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	12 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf 7:00 pm AA	13
14 9:00 am Worship and Christmas Pageant 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm New Member Class	15 MLK Jr. Day Office Closed 9:30 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg 7:00 pm Gambler Anonymous Mtg.	16 9:00 am Library Mtg 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:00 pm This is Most Certainly Brew 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	17 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 10:30 am P&G Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15pm Community Supper 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	18 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	19 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf 7:00 pm AA	20
21 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	22 Friend Articles Due 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries; Knitters & Crocheters 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg. 7:00 pm Gambler Anonymous Mtg.; Gam-Anon Mtg.	23 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	24 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	25 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	26 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf 7:00 pm AA	27
28 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	29 7:00 pm Gambler Anonymous Mtg.	30 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	31 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15pm Community Supper 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir 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).