



# The Friend

## December Worship Schedule

### Advent Worship

*Wednesdays - 12:00 & 6:00 pm*

*December 4 and 11*

*December 18(Blue Christmas)*

### Christmas Pageant

*December 8 - 9:00 am*

### Christmas Concert

*December 15 - 4:00 pm*

*Refreshments will be served by the Parish Fellowship Committee  
in the Gathering Corner after the concert*

### Christmas Eve

*2:00 pm - Family-friendly Service*

*4:00 pm - Worship Band*

*10:00 pm - Organ, Candlelight, and Hymns*

### Christmas Day

*10:30 am*

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# GROW & WORSHIP

## Invite

Matt Flom, Pastor

*15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

*Luke 2:15-20*

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We read, hear, and watch these verses of the Bible in pageants every year. It is such a wonderful account of God's great love for us. We hear it so often that we often skip right over the details. In verses 17 and 18, we read that after the shepherds had seen the Christ child for themselves, they went out and witnessed to others the coming of the Messiah. We should follow their example and tell others of God's love for them. In the Lutheran church, we often assume that people know the story or that people know of Jesus. This is not the present world we live in. Many people have never been to church, heard the Bible's stories, or been told how much God loves them. I urge you to grab a packet of our new invite tickets and invite friends, family, and neighbors to St. Philip's. Invite them to Sunday worship, Wednesday worship, the Blue Christmas service, Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day. The best gift to give this season is love. May God bless you and keep you and your family well this Advent season.



## Be a Light

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

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

Happy Holidays to you and yours! It's amazing how quickly this year went...it's amazing to me how quickly time goes by in general. Each day, when my girls were younger, I would start the day by telling them I love them and remind them to be kind. Now that they're older (18 and 21 to be exact...see? Where does the time go?!) I tell them I love them and remind them to be a light. Offer a smile, or a helping hand. Show kindness and offer grace...to me, that is what it means to be a light.

In a world full of darkness, I pray you can find some joy in the season. After all, this is the season of all things that glitter, shine, and sparkle. This is the season to be generous and kind. This is the season to gather with friends and family as we await the birth of that precious baby boy.

As we wait and prepare for the birth of our savior, I invite you to join us for worship on Sunday, December 8 at the 9:00 am worship service. Our children and youth have been working hard, practicing songs and their lines for this year's pageant...I can't wait for you to see their light shine! Also on that day, you are invited to visit the Ministry Mission Corner where you can purchase baked goods, and other gifts for that special person in your life at our Youth Holiday Market! The Holiday Market is a fundraiser for the summer youth Mission Trip. Our Youth would like to thank those who have made donations to the sale, and for those who continue to support them through financial donations, volunteering in the youth program, and always offering words of encouragement and moments of prayer for them.

I pray that this year you are able to find countless ways to be a light, and may your heart fill with joy as you gather with friends and family.

# GROW & SERVE

## Christmas Blessings

Brian Munsterman, President

"Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!" December is a glorious time of year which I love. I like the traditions, all the beautiful lights, the decorations, the gathering of the family and the celebration of the birth of our Savior. I look forward to so many things here at church during this month. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 8, for the Children, Youth & Family Program 2024 Christmas Pageant, "In One Word" and Sunday, December 15 for the Christmas Concert. Both are always so beautiful. I especially love the carols this month and the Christmas Eve candlelight service. I hope everyone enjoys all that you hold dear during this wonderful season! Merry Christmas to all and may God bless everyone in the new year.

## BOA Meeting Summary



- Harbon Montessori passed all state inspections and is now able to offer more openings for enrollment.
- Christmas mailers have been sent to neighboring communities inviting visitors to our services.
- Have set dates for the 2025 church directory. More information to come.

## Thank You!

Thank you for donating gift cards for our Thanksgiving families. We served 60 families this year with gift cards from Walmart which will enable them to purchase the food of their choosing.



## Christmas Shoppe

December 14, we will host a shopping event for registered families from St Philip's, North Park Elementary, and Hayes Elementary. Each family will be able to choose two gifts for each of their children. If you have not taken a tag with a gift suggestion, you still have time to do so. Gifts can be returned until Monday, December 9.

# Christmas Shoppe

## August, September, and October Completed Projects

### Property & Grounds and Wednesday Work Crew

Job	Cost	Savings
Fall Cleanup trim bushes, took down 5 trees	0.00	\$5,000
Straighten gate to playground	0.00	\$200
Edging was added to playground area between the grass and pea gravel	\$46.17	\$295
Replaced flood lights in copula (materials and labor)	\$4,489.37	\$3,500
New motor installed in office window unit	\$275.57	\$600
Set up & take down for garage sale	0.00	0.00
Ice machine was leaking, hose has been adjusted	0.00	\$150
New LED lights have been installed men's bathroom by the Chapel	0.00	\$300
Lights under Door 2 canopy have been cleaned and replaced	0.00	\$200
Wire was pulled for chapel smoke beams	\$74.00	\$250
Light was replaced outside Pastor Matt's office	\$520.47	\$225
Changed air filters, blew out hoses, brought hoses inside, turned water off, covered office units, cleaned out gutters on roof, Narthex windows have been caulked, motors have been greased, belts have been changed, filters changed on bottle filling stations, timer for parking lot lights has been repaired	0.00	Priceless
Lawn has been mowed over 29 times	0.00	\$2,500
Pews are being cleaned and vacuumed	0.00	\$2,800



# GROW & SERVE

## Who Knew? Heritage Group

The Heritage Group visited with Richard Harris on October 8, 2024. Richard and his wife Laurel became members of St. Philip's in 1967. Two daughters attended Sunday school and confirmation at St. Philip's and graduated from Fridley school district. Laurel died on April 17, 2024, and her funeral was held at St. Philip's on April 26. What Pastor Matt learned from Richard at the funeral was that Richard was involved in the construction of our new Sanctuary! Who knew??

Richard's father had started a welding company in Fridley after a stint with the US Navy as a welder. Richard followed in his father's footsteps, learning to weld from an early age, joining the navy after high school, and joining his family's welding company after graduating from the U of MN with a degree in engineering.

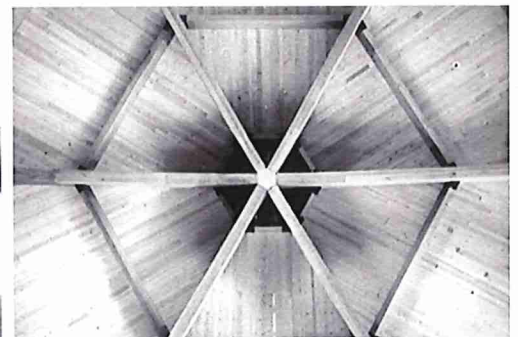
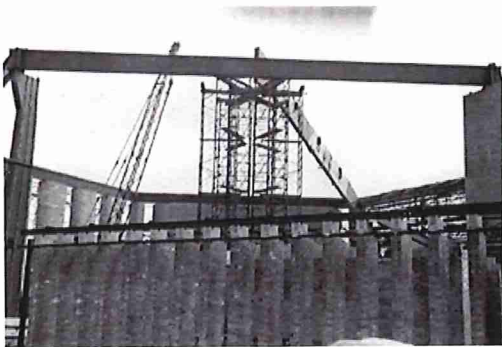
In 1965, the company was working with Northern Ordinance (FMC). After the 1965 tornado, they helped with the search and rescue operation. The company owned and operated the type of equipment needed to lift heavy pieces of debris.

In the spring of 1965, the congregation of St. Philip's had made the decision to build a new and larger Sanctuary. Harold Spitznagel and Associates of Sioux Falls, South Dakota was hired to design the new Sanctuary. Henry O. Mikkelson Company of Minneapolis was the General Contractor.

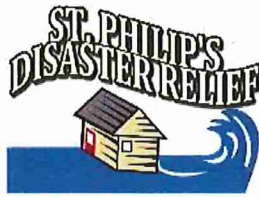
The new Sanctuary would be large at 6,758 square feet and a height of 48 feet. To support this expanse, the architect's design called for six beams, supported by six columns around the perimeter of the building, coming together in a circle at the top, using a tension ring / compression ring construction method.

Weyerhaeuser provided the wooden beams. They were made in Tacoma, Washington and shipped to Fridley by rail. It took two weeks to ship by special cars on special tracks and was very costly. Manufacture time for the beams was three-four months. The beams were assembled in layers of Douglas fir and southern yellow pine and glued together.

Below are pictures the Heritage Group found of the beams during construction. We ask that if you have any pictures taken during this time of 1965-1966, you share with the group.



## 2025 Spring Trip St. Philip's Disaster Relief



The area west of Nashville that stretches about 100 miles has been an area hard hit by tornados and floods for the past 3-4 years. SPDR teams have traveled to Waverly, KY three times, Mayfield, TN twice and Clarksville, TN once to assist in the rebuild following natural disaster events. The journey to this area continues. A SPDR Ministry Team tentatively plans to return to Clarksville next spring to continue our work in the area. In a few weeks we will begin coordination with our partners, the United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR for trip preparation. The trip is tentatively scheduled for April 26 thru May 4. Please mark your calendars and give serious thought to joining the team for trip number 86. Thank you for your continued financial and spiritual support.

## Food & Clothing Shelf Update

Every Tuesday we bring in a food delivery and fully stock the Food Shelf inventory. After 2 busy days of visitors the pictures below show what it looks like in the food room at the close of the Wednesday evening shift. We are left with barely enough inventory to make it through the Friday shift. As you can see, the increased numbers are making it difficult to keep up with the demand.

If 2024 has been good to you and you wish to send a year end donation to the Food & Clothing Shelf, we could certainly use your year-end gift. We are in need of a sizable year-end increase in donations to keep up with the current demand. With gratitude, the Food & Clothing Staff



# GROW & SERVE

## Update from Tokyo Jim and Carol Sack

This past summer when we were back in the States for "Home Leave," we were able to make direct contact with 7 of our congregations. Each and every week we had very meaningful time with those congregations and the people who worshipped that week! We want to thank you for those special times we were able to experience. In March of 2024, we had four seminary students graduate from the school. In this newsletter and another one I will be writing soon, we would like to introduce you to two of the graduates and share their backgrounds.

Very often these Christians have grown up in non-Christian homes and yet the Lord has found different ways to seek after them and inspire them to become pastors. In this letter we want to introduce you to Rev. Mariko Miura.

As an only child, Mariko was brought up in a home where the parents were not Christian. Her grandparents were also close by and she had frequent contact with them. The first time she encountered Christianity was when she went to Kyushu Jogakuin, a Lutheran school which was originally established as a girl's HS in 1926. When she was an 8th grade student her parents divorced and the father left the home. Many of the Christian teachers at the school were worried about Mariko since her grades suddenly became worse after the divorce. One of the teachers invited her to attend a worship service at a local Lutheran Church. The church felt like a warm family to Mariko, and she would often attend worship.

When she was a junior in high school, she became an exchange student in Australia. Upon her return to Japan as a Senior, she decided to become baptized. After that she attended and graduated from the International Christian University in Tokyo, which provided her with many wonderful experiences. Upon graduation she worked in Tokyo for a couple of years until her mother's cancer returned and her mother was only given one month to live. Mariko quickly quit her job and returned to be with her mother, which made her mother very happy. Because of unavoidable circumstances Mariko had to be separated at the time of death, but she was able to say goodbye over the phone. Mariko felt a great sense of loss, and began to doubt God and questioned whether she really had faith. She mailed one of the pastors and expressed her doubts to the pastor. This was the start of a new road for her.

Even though she did not have much joy or faith, she would sometimes attend church and there she saw many others who did have faith and seemed to be quite joyful. After her mother's death, for about 7 years she suffered regret. She prayed to God, that God would guide her, and she found some consolation and knew she was not alone. From the pastor, Mariko learned about the seminary, and even though she didn't think about becoming a pastor at that time, she knew she would be able to study theology. In 2019 she entered the seminary and gradually over time felt the call from God to become a pastor, and experienced God's power and leading.

It was at this point that she felt the desire to share with others what God had given to her. During her time at the seminary she met many faithful Christians who supported and encouraged her. Many from her school back home also prayed for her and supported her. Before starting her last year at the seminary, her grandmother and grandfather were both becoming quite old and feeble. She decided to take a leave of absence to be with them and help them in their final days. She was able to be with them at their times of death and felt the strong guidance of God through that experience.

Mariko then returned to the seminary and completed her final year and was ordained as a pastor in the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church in March of this year. Currently Rev. Mariko Miura is serving as a pastor at two churches in the Tokai district, a couple of hours from Tokyo. Please give thanks to God for Rev. Miura and pray for her ministry as an ordained pastor.



## Life Events



Nila and Bud Carpenter on 12/7/1952 for 72 years

Burton and Judith Ferrier on 12/30/1961 for 63 years

Mary and Ray Kukowski on 12/4/1965 for 59 years

Douglas and Miriam Haugland on 12/21/1974 for 50 years

## Endowment Fund

### The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Be a Blessing to Future Generations!

Gifts were received in memory and honor of

*Gayle Mattison*

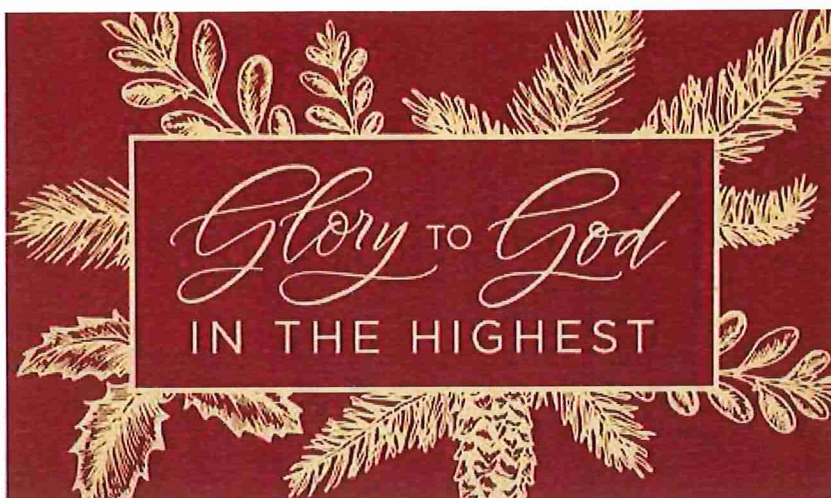
*Betty Nordling*

Thank you for your support!

## Financials

St. Philip's 2024	Actual October	Actual YTD
Income	\$44,417.20	\$596,924.34
Expense	(\$53,983.07)	(\$612,747.34)
TOTALS	(\$9,565.87)	(\$15,823.00)

## Friendly Takeaway



### St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

[www.splcmn.org](http://www.splcmn.org) ~ [info@splcmn.org](mailto:info@splcmn.org)

Phone: 763-571-1500

Pastoral Emergency Phone: 763-571-1500

### Church Staff

**Pastor Matt Flom, Pastor**

[MattF@splcmn.org](mailto:MattF@splcmn.org), 763-231-0557

**Pastor Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor**

[EricN@splcmn.org](mailto:EricN@splcmn.org), 763-231-0526

**Katie Buettner Business Manager**

[KatieS@splcmn.org](mailto:KatieS@splcmn.org), 763-231-0420

**Jenni Anderson, Communications Director**

[JenniA@splcmn.org](mailto:JenniA@splcmn.org), 763-231-0414

**Jerry Salitros, Bookkeeper**

[JerryS@splcmn.org](mailto:JerryS@splcmn.org), 763-231-0489

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

[ConnieY@splcmn.org](mailto:ConnieY@splcmn.org), 763-231-0518

**Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader**

[CheriS@splcmn.org](mailto:CheriS@splcmn.org)

**Curt Morales, Sanctuary Choir Director**

[CurtM@splcmn.org](mailto:CurtM@splcmn.org)

**Julie Lueck, Organist**

[Julie@splcmn.org](mailto:Julie@splcmn.org)

**Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Handbell Director**

[Dawng48@hotmail.com](mailto:Dawng48@hotmail.com)

**Rianna Swenstad, Nursery Ministry Worker**

**Everett Washington, Part-Time Custodian**

### Worship Schedule

9:00 am Traditional

10:30 am Contemporary

- Access worship livestreams on our website [[www.splcmn.org](http://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](mailto:BOA@splcmn.org)

**Brian Munsterman, President**

[bmunsterman@comcast.net](mailto:bmunsterman@comcast.net)

**Aaron Gondorchin, Vice-President**

[zebular@gmail.com](mailto:zebular@gmail.com)

**Kari Davies, Secretary**

[karidavies73@gmail.com](mailto:karidavies73@gmail.com)

**Greg Rosholt, Treasurer**

[gsrosholt@comcast.net](mailto:gsrosholt@comcast.net)

**Connie Bernardy**

[conniebernardy@gmail.com](mailto:conniebernardy@gmail.com)

**Judy Greer**

[jlgreer50@gmail.com](mailto:jlgreer50@gmail.com)

**Terry Jeglosky**

[terryjeglosky@gmail.com](mailto:terryjeglosky@gmail.com)

**Dianne Lundeen**

[dek67sai@gmail.com](mailto:dek67sai@gmail.com)

**Tom Mesenbourg**

[tmes72@mac.com](mailto:tmes72@mac.com)

**Rita Schwieters**

[ritaschwieters87@gmail.com](mailto:ritaschwieters87@gmail.com)

**Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack**

**Companion Congregation:**

**Bille Lutheran in Nigeria**

**Ministers: All members of the Parish**

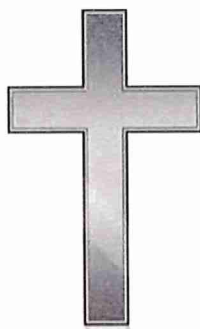
# December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 am Worship; 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:20 am Pageant Script Practice 10:30 am Worship	2 1:00 pm Joy Circle - Offsite	3 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	4 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 12:00 pm Advent Worship 12:45 pm Bring your own lunch 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Advent Worship 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 7:00 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 10:00 am Pageant Rehearsal
8 8:30 am Youth Holiday Market 9:00 am Worship & Pageant 9:20 am No Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	9 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 6:30 pm Executive Mtg	10 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	11 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters Project; Walking Alone Together Event 10:00 am EA Mtg.; Women's Book Club 12:00 pm Advent Worship 12:45 pm Bring your own lunch 1:00 pm Walking Alone Together 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Advent Worship 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	12 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	13 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	14 10:00 am Christmas Shoppe
15 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am No Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Christmas Concert	16 Friend Articles Due 9:30 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg.	17 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	18 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 10:30 am P&G Mtg. 12:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship 12:45 pm Bring your own lunch 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship 7:00 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 No Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	23 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries; Knitters & Crocheters	24 Christmas Eve 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed 2:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed 10:00 am EA Mtg. 10:30 am Christmas Day Worship 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed 5:15pm Community Supper - Cancelled	26 Office Closed 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	27 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	28
29 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am No Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	30	31 New Year's Eve 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 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).