

The Friend

2025



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GROW & WORSHIP

Happy New Year!

Eric Nelson, Pastor

Often, we look to start into new and improved practices in the year, setting resolutions for all sorts of personal improvement. Times like the change of year is a wonderful time for this, but sometimes we forget that we are called to a sort of redirection constantly in life. As Martin Luther explains baptism in the Small Catechism, he shares meaningful words about how our one baptism for the forgiveness of sins is lived out each day anew. Luther says:

What then is the significance of such a baptism with water?

It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and to die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

At times we look to our forgiveness of sins only pertaining to the end of this life and our entrance to the next as we join Jesus in the heavenly kingdom with no more sin, pain, and death. Those promises should not be forgotten, but they can make us forget about our new life now. As we wake each morning, we die daily to sin so we can rise anew with Christ living in us. Some will remember their baptism each morning as they shower or wash their face. It is not a re-baptism, but a reminder of the new life we are called to live in.

Because when we remember this wonderful promise, life looks different. When we remember who we belong to and how God's ways are meant to be our ways, each day with the same patterns can take on new meaning for ourselves and for all of those around us.

Yes, there will be days when the old sinful self seems to rise up once again just moments after we remember this baptismal promise. So, we pause and remember again. We confess our sins to God. We apologize to those we might harm and then we get up again, ready to walk anew in the steps of our loving God.

We don't need to wait 365 days to hit the reset button. We are called each day and each moment to live anew in Christ's promises of forgiveness and newness of life.

So perhaps this new year, instead of choosing a resolution that will be void by the end of the month, we make a practice of remembering this baptismal promise more often so we can carry the love and grace of Christ more freely in our daily lives.

And when we miss a day, when we forget, when we see our old ugly habits rearing their head... we remember the grace of Christ and the promise in which we are baptized and we stand up again, admit our faults, and thank God for new life once again as we share Christ's love and grace.

May you remember God's love and grace in this new year. May you remember your baptism daily. May you know that hope for new life in Christ is present and alive in each moment. Let us live and share the good news.

Peace to You This New Year

Connie Yerigan, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Grace and love to you this New Year! I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays with family and friends, and I pray this new year brings you peace. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support of our Youth at their Holiday Market! You helped them raise over \$350 for their summer Mission trip! Watch for details on the upcoming cinnamon roll sale!

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

- Story-Teller 1.....Rachel Munsterman
Story-Teller 2.....Ava Havon
Jonathan (Game Show Announcer).....Ephram Browne
Simon (Contestant).....Stella Hovde
Joanna (Contestant).....Alice Browne
Martha (Contestant).....Frances Browne
Noah (Commercial Spokesperson).....Reese Hovde
Jonah (Commercial Spokesperson).....Emerson Goldenstein
Haggai (Commercial Spokesperson).....Owen Nelson
Gomer (Commercial Spokesperson).....Declan Nelson
Camel.....Finn Nelson
Wiseman.....Reese Hovde
Wiseman.....Tessa Erwin
Wiseman.....Emerson Goldenstein
Joseph.....Charlie Broden
Mary.....Kacey Erwin
King Herod.....Phillip Nestrud
Main Angel.....Rosalie Broden
Shepherd.....Benjamin Sponsel
Shepherd.....Theodore Sponsel

Angel Choir: (St. Philip's Children & Youth) Aiden Bertsch, Connor Bertsch, Charlie Broden, Rosalie Broden, Frances Browne, Alice Browne, Ephram Browne, Ayla Deneka, Alex Eliason, Tessa Erwin, Kacey Erwin, Mia Gabrielson, Anna Glood, Ivy Goldenstein, Emerson Goldenstein, Annalina Guevara, Adelyn Guillen, Ava Havon, Reese Hovde, Stella Hovde, Cleo Humenansky, Oscar Hurley, Nelson Hurley, Noah Leyendecker, Luke Mesenbourg, Alyson Mickolichek, Blake Munsterman, Rachel Munsterman, Finn Nelson, Declan Nelson, Owen Nelson, Phillip Nestrud, Allison Roy, Aaron Roy, Jordan Simmons, Theodore Sponsel, Benjamin Sponsel, Lily Thompson, Caspian Thompson, Mathias Thompson, Azalea Thompson, Wyatt Thomson, and Scarlett Thomson.

A special thank you to Tasha Browne for her beautiful gift of piano music, and also Gina Munsterman, thank you! Thank you to all of the teachers and parent volunteers for your love, dedication and extra hands, behind the scenes work. There is so much to be grateful for, and I am excited for all that is to come in 2025! I pray that you find time to see God and count your blessings this new year and always.

GROW & SERVE

BOA Meeting Summary



- We approved the 2025 budget as presented.
- Nominations are ahead of schedule. Most positions are filled for the ballot. The need is for one more person to serve a 2-year term as a BOA member-at-large.
- We're looking for someone or a group of people to pick up the ministry of taking the donated items in the office (glasses, cell phones, hygiene supplies, etc.) to various organizations.
- Budget Forum will be held on Sunday, January 19. More details to come.

Financials

St. Philip's 2024	Actual November	Actual YTD
Income	\$46,368	\$643,292.34
Expense	(\$58,548.14)	(\$671,295.48)
TOTALS	(\$12,180.14)	(\$28,003.14)

Endowment Fund

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Gifts were received in memory and honor of

Gayle Mattison

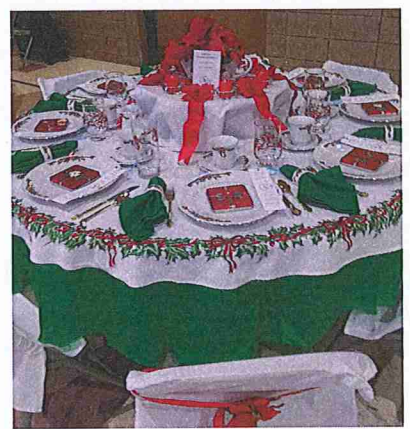
Gladys Pecore

Thank you for your support!

SERVE & PRAYER

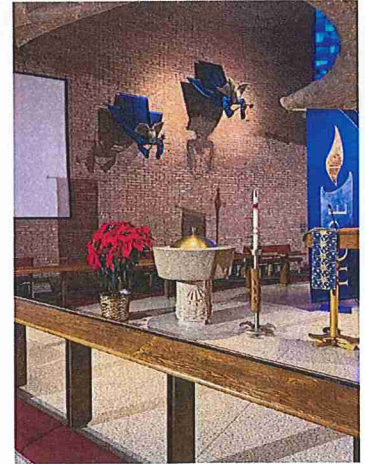
Festival of Tables 2025

Save the Date! The 2025 Festival of Tables will be held on April 12, 2025. This fun and beautiful fundraiser will benefit the St. Philip's Food & Clothing Shelf and the Wednesday Night Community Suppers. Tickets will go on sale in late March for \$20.00. The entertainment will include a storyteller whose topic is Laura Ingalls Wilder. Information will be sent out to previous decorators and hosts late in January. We would love to have new decorators, also. If anyone would like more information about decorating or hosting a table, please contact Julie Small [kjsmall74@msn.com].



Advent Angels

Do you love the Advent Angels? Do you like to climb tall ladders? Have you always wanted to walk on the Baldachin? Pay attention, this is for you! After many years of installing the angels, Bob Becker has decided that it's time to pass the baton (or halo) to the next generation. The angels will be taken down on Thursday, January 2 and this could be the start of a younger generation taking the baton (or halo) and running with it. Please contact Becky Becker [rlwbecker01@gmail.com] or text [763-913-4059] if you're interested.



GROW & SERVE

Happy New Year! Heritage Group

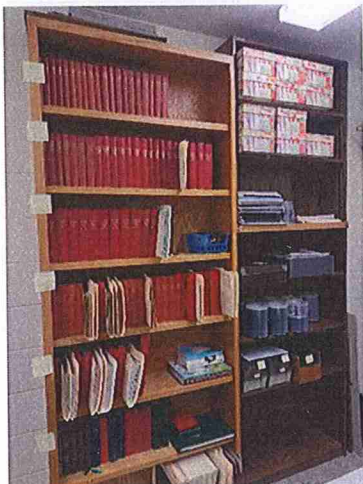
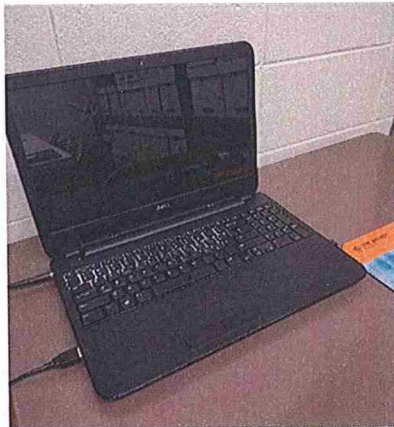
Happy 2025 from the Heritage Group.

We look forward to another year of sifting through pictures and slides, organizing the files that were put together several years ago, and continued sundry tasks as needed! We also enjoy the sleuth work required when people contact the office looking for old information.

As always, if you are someone who would be interested in helping us, we figure the more the merrier! The group members are Patti Kondziolka, Arlene Hamernik, Erna Thomley, Gary Blomster, Kathy Swenson, Mike Anderson, Carol Anderson and last but not least our fearless leader Dick Lekang.

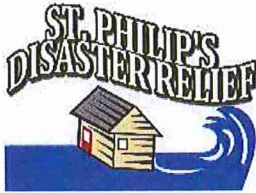
We have included some pictures that show you the modern equipment at our disposal to accomplish what we accomplish! This said tongue in cheek given the antiques! We are very thankful for all donated equipment and furniture.

We welcome any historical church documents or pictures that you might wish to add to our plethora of stuff.



2025 Spring Trip

St. Philip's Disaster Relief



Since COVID, SPDR teams have traveled to Waverly, KY three times, twice to Mayfield, TN, and once to Clarksville, TN to assist in the rebuild following floods and tornadoes. The journey will continue to Clarksville. A SPDR Ministry Team tentatively plans to return to Clarksville next spring to continue our work. In a few weeks we will begin coordination with our partners, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for trip preparation. Right now, the trip is scheduled for April 26 - May 4. Please mark your calendars and give serious thought to joining the team for trip number 86. As always, thank you for your financial and spiritual support.



New Books in the Library!

1. *A Little More Like Jesus: all aboard for the fruits of the spirit* by Zach Williams. We are called to be more like Jesus, but it can be hard to know what that means. In this book from Christian Music artist Zach Williams, kids join an exciting bus trip to discover fruits of the Spirit and learn how showing more love, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control can make a big difference.
2. *Family Time* by Grady Nutt. This book was created to encourage families to spend more time together.
3. *Snow* by Cynthia Rylant. The author celebrates the beauty of a snowfall and its happy effect on children.
4. *Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith* by various authors. In this collection of stories, the challenge is to listen for God everywhere. Life and faith merge in surprising ways.
5. *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson. A haunting novel spanning several generations. "The Seed Keeper" follows a Dakota family's struggle to preserve their way of life and their sacrifices to protect what matters most.
6. *100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names* by Diane Wells From Baby Blue Eyes to Silver Bells, from Abelia to Zinnia, every flower tells a story. The author presents 100 garden favorites and the stories behind their names.
7. *Isaac's Storm: a Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in Human History*. On September 8, 1900, Isaac Cline, meteorologist in Galveston, Texas, failed to recognize the seriousness of the deep-sea swells and winds that greeted the city. Based on the diaries of Isaac Monroe Cline and contemporary accounts.
8. *Man o' War* by Cory McCarthy. This is a coming-of-age story that follows the journey of an Irish Lebanese American trans teen navigating challenges and joys of self-discovery. What follows is a wrenching journey of self-discovery. It is candid and emotional and is intended for older teens and adults. This novel is a "Read Brave St. Paul" selection recommended by the St. Paul Public Library. Read Brave St. Paul is an annual city-wide book club hosted by Mayor Melvin Carter and the St. Paul Public Library.
9. *The Devil in the White City: murder, magic, and madness at the fair that changed America* by Erik Larson. The author paints a picture of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago and two men, the architect behind the World's Fair and a cunning serial killer.

GROW & SERVE

Update from Tokyo

Jim and Carol Sack

As I promised when I recently sent you another newsletter, I want to present to you one more recent seminary graduate. Today's pastor is the Rev. David Nelson, the son of ELCA missionaries who served here as career missionaries. It is unusual to have a foreigner become a JELC (Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church) pastor, and not a missionary sent from the States like we are. He was ordained along with three other graduates in March of this year.

Ordination of four graduates in 2024

David's parents served a number of congregations here in Japan in their long career. David was born in Hamamatsu, relatively close to Mt. Fuji. He lived there until he was four and then returned to the States in St. Paul for one year while his parents were on "Home Assignment." After that the family moved to the snowy north part of Japan on the large island of Hokkaido, to the city of Sapporo. He attended the very small Hokkaido International School, which only had 5-6 students at that time.

For high school he lived in a dorm in Tokyo and attended the American School in Japan. Upon graduation he went to the States and spent one year in the Seattle Bible Institute. It was here that he developed a great interest in the idea of "tentmaking," the concept of having a job while also doing intentional Gospel sowing in the community. After that year he finished up his college education at St. Olaf College, and then on to Columbia University Law School. When this study ended, he stayed in NY and worked for 3 years at a law firm. After a while, when David was 28 he was recruited to work in another firm in Tokyo. He has been in Japan ever since. He met his wife Yoko who was a nurse, at the church they both attended. They have raised three children whom all are now in their twenties and working in the States. The influence of his earlier idea of tentmaking came back to him and he took early retirement at age 57 and enrolled in a 2-year course to study theology at the seminary. During those two years he felt the call from God to become a pastor. During this time he did some volunteer work teaching English at one of the JELC churches, along with other volunteer activities. He wanted to be a pastor of the JELC, but did not know if that was possible, since he was not a Japanese citizen. However, the church leadership was eager to have David become one of their pastors.

Rev. David Nelson

In March, Rev. David Nelson was ordained as a minister of the JELC and currently serving two churches in the southern-most island of Kyushu. The two churches are separated by a 3 hour drive one way, but Rev. Nelson is thankful to be able to serve both churches, even though it makes for a long weekend. Rev. Nelson's journey to become a pastor of the Japanese church is a unique one, but shows that we all are one in Christ. It also is a testimony to the effort and work he put in to study entirely in the Japanese language, graduate from the seminary and now serve along many Japanese colleagues for the JELC. I want to praise God for David and his ministry. Please pray for Rev. Nelson, his ministry, and his family. In addition, prayers for all the JELC pastors, their congregations, and their ministries would be much appreciated. We would like to ask for your prayers as well, as this is our last year of ministry in Japan. We have mentioned earlier that we will be retiring in Japan in 2025.

Blessings in Christ,

Jim and Carol Sack, Tokyo

Life Events



Ronald and Marlene Hirth on 1/28/1961 for 64 years Susan and David Nelson on 1/1/1982 for 43 years
John and Josephine Riley on 1/5/1961 for 64 years Dennis and DeeAnn Gritti on 1/15/2000 for 25 years
Roger and Sandra Goman on 1/26/1963 for 62 years Dane and Dena Froiland on 1/10/2004 for 21 years
Tom and DeeDee Kozlak on 1/28/1967 for 58 years Piklu and Ratan Roy on 1/22/2010 for 15 years



One Last Thing...

The Benevolence Committee asks the congregation for a lot during the year, and we appreciate the support given. Here is what you can expect in 2025:

- In February or March we will collect items for a home for moms and their babies.
- Things are quiet until late summer when we do our backpack collection for schools. We will have a goal of 50 backpacks, so if you see a sale, purchase one!
- Coats for Kids is held in October. The committee funds this and purchases coats to be given to local schools. Again, should you see a great sale on kids' coats, purchase at that time!
- In lieu of Thanksgiving baskets, we have been giving Walmart gift cards, which will be collected during the first weeks of November.
- Our Christmas Shoppe requires many gift items if we continue to help at least 150 children. We hold Christmas in July as well as collection during late November. We may try that again to spread out the requests.

We thank you for your continued support. This schedule may be helpful for those of you who want to plan your giving. Because of your support, we are able to do great work in our community!

Friendly Takeaway

For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the LORD, plans for your welfare and
not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
Jeremiah 29:11

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

www.splcmn.org ~ info@splcmn.org

Phone: 763-571-1500

Pastoral Emergency Phone: 763-571-1500

Church Staff

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MattF@splcmn.org, 763-231-0557

Pastor Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

EricN@splcmn.org, 763-231-0526

Katie Buettner Business Manager

KatieS@splcmn.org, 763-231-0420

Jenni Anderson, Communications Director

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Jerry Salitros, Bookkeeper

JerryS@splcmn.org, 763-231-0489

Connie Yerigan, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

ConnieY@splcmn.org, 763-231-0518

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

CheriS@splcmn.org

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

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

Kari Davies, Secretary

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Tom Mesenbourg

tmes72@mac.com

Rita Schwieters

ritaschwieters87@gmail.com

Companion Congregation:

Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

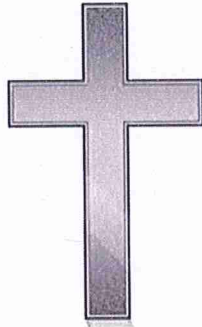
January 2025

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



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).