

The Friend

Advent Worship Schedule

Wednesdays at 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm - Fellowship Hall
December 3 and 10, 17 (Blue Christmas)

Gingerbread Bash

6:45 – 7:30 pm in the Youth Room
December 3 and 10

Christmas Pageant

December 7 - 9:00 am Worship

Annual Youth Holiday Market

December 7 - Mission Corner

Christmas Concert

December 14 - 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve

2:00 pm (Family-Friendly)

4:00 pm (Worship Band)

10:00 pm (Organ, Candlelight, and Hymns)

Christmas Day

10:30 am

December

Welcome	1	December Events	7
Pastor Matt's Column	2	Endowment Fund	8
Faith Formation	3	Financials	8
President's Column	4	Office, F&CS, Supper Closures	8
BOA Summary	4	Life Events	9
Meals on Wheels	4	Friendly Takeaway	10
Heritage	5	Contact Info	10
F&CS Update	6	December Calendar	11
Holiday Giving Updates	6	Mission & Vision	12
St. Philip's Disaster Relief	7		

GROW & SERVE

Gift of Time

Matt Flom, Pastor

9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Matthew 2:9-12

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Or are you a last minute, even last minute, Christmas Eve shopper? Do you spend a lot of time thinking about the perfect gift or do you play it safe and get the usual type of gift. I would like to offer a few suggestions on gift giving this Christmas season. The most valuable thing you have is not your money, your possessions, or even your house. The most valuable thing you have is your time. The gift of time is indeed truly precious. It really is the gift of presence, your presence with those you love and those who love you. Now in December that can be difficult. We often have icy roads. We deal with early darkness. We have such an extra busy schedule, we tend to cancel a bunch of regular functions. It can be hard to just leave the house. That makes the gift of our presence even more precious. I urge us all to be intentional about being present for those we love and those who love us. If we can't make it in person, we can call or do an online video visit. We can also share with each other the presence of God. Keep each other in your prayers. Come together at the Christmas worship services. I have met many, many people who have found Christ in their hearts at a Christmas Eve service. Gifts are nice, but you are better. Best of all is communing together with God. Have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

God's Peace,

Pr. Matt

Hope in the Pause

Connie Yerigan, *Director of Faith Formation*

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Isaiah 40:31

Happy Holidays to you and yours. This is the season of lights twinkling, music drifting through the air, and hearts opening just a bit wider. Advent invites us into a sacred kind of pause...a slower, softer rhythm in a world that rarely slows down. It's the season where kindness feels contagious, generosity feels natural, and gathering with those we love reminds us of the hope we share in Jesus.

I used to say I wasn't good at waiting. I liked quick answers, fast solutions, and tidy timelines. But over the last few years, life has gently nudged me into a new way of seeing things. Waiting doesn't have to be frustrating. Sometimes waiting becomes holy. In the waiting, we remember that God moves in His own good time...and often in the most beautiful ways.

Right now, I'm joyfully waiting for our children and youth Christmas pageant. I hope you can join us on Sunday, December 7 at the 9:00 am worship service. This year's program, "Back to the Manger," is already filling the building with excitement. The kids are practicing their lines, learning their songs, and doing it all with that unmistakable sparkle that only children bring to the Christmas story. Every rehearsal reminds me why I will gladly wait in wonder for this season year after year.

Wherever you find yourself waiting this season...whether in long lines, in prayer, or simply in life...I pray you discover hope tucked right inside the waiting. Advent reminds us that God shows up in the quiet moments, the slow moments, and the moments we least expect.

Many blessings to you and your family in this season of waiting, hope, and love.

GROW & SERVE

Christmas Blessings

Brian Munsterman, President

"Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!" What a glorious time of year December is. I really love this time of year, although I could do without the cold weather. I like the traditions, including the new ones that have begun, 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 7, for the Children, Youth & Family Program 2025 Christmas Pageant and their annual Holiday Market, and Sunday, December 14 for the Christmas Concert. These are always so beautiful. I especially love the carols and the Christmas Eve candlelight service. While this is such a joyous season for some, it can be just the exact opposite for others. Please reach out and help where you can to those in need or suffering, those that might just need an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on, and help spread God's blessings. 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



- Talked about our current financial situation and options for the 2026 budget. We'll vote at December's meeting on a budget to present to the congregation.
- Discussed all of the work that's being done to address the heat in the Sanctuary.
- Aaron gave an update on nominations for 2026. We have volunteers for some positions, but we still need two more members at large on the Board (2-year term), another person for finance committee & nominating committee, and 1-3 more members to be delegates at the synod assembly May 1-2.

Meals on Wheels

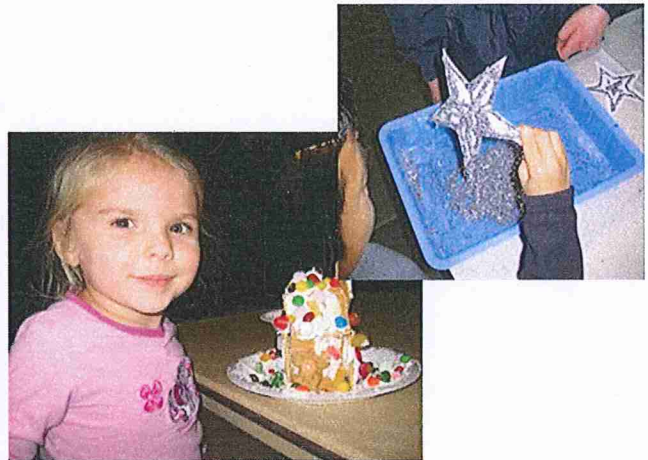
November is filled with planning and having family together for Thanksgiving. Our amazing Meals on Wheels volunteers are helping to spread Thankfulness on a daily basis. The folks we serve are grateful to have a fresh hot meal delivered by kind, smiling people who show they care. Those caring people this time are: Eldy and Sandy Nelson, Chuck and Kathy Eichelberger, Steve Ess, Larry and Phyllis Ehlers, Mike and Deb Carroll, Greg and Claudia Potasek, Mike and Renee Youngberg, Cathy Challman, Mary Paul, Ron and Jennifer Prasek. Thank you to all.



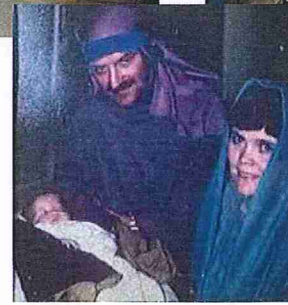
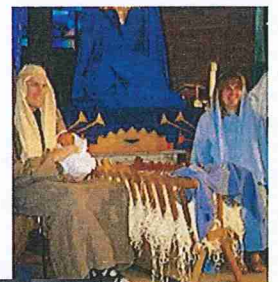
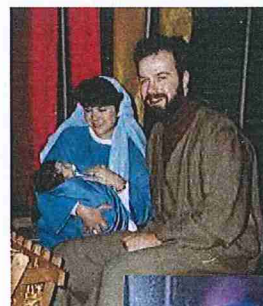
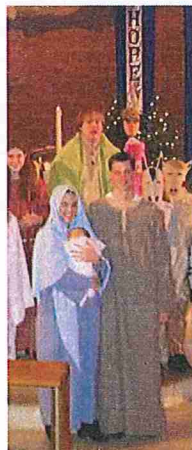
Christmastime

Heritage Group

Since 1958, the members of St. Philip's have awaited Christmas with celebrations and activities. Advent festivals, Hanging the Greens, letters from church staff, formal Christmas Concerts and sing-alongs. Gingerbread Houses, decorating the Sanctuary, craft projects with lots of glitter, advent candles, and painting on the walls and windows. Did we mention glitter? The custodians have been so very patient with us!



One of the favorites has always been the children's Christmas Pageant. Heritage has found that 59 families participated as the Holy Family. Several families more than once and one family four times! It appears that early pageants were all children. The first time that families are mentioned is 1966 with Mr. & Mrs. Carl Edstrom and Mr. & Mrs. Art DeMeyere.



GROW & SERVE

Update

Food & Clothing Shelf

On average, St. Philip's Food Shelf has been purchasing a little more than \$1,000.00 of food per week from 2nd Harvest Heartland. Our goal is to maintain a healthy and helpful array of food for our visitors. We save \$40.00 per week by picking up approximately 1,200 pounds of food weekly. A faithful group of volunteers come each Tuesday to help fill shelves to ensure we are well stocked for the week. Our numbers keep increasing, and with SNAP benefits on a teeter totter, we expect numbers to continue to climb. If you are looking for a worthy place to give a year end tax deferred contribution, on top of your much needed St. Philip's general budget contributions, we would greatly appreciate a donation to help us strengthen our finances. Your support for this ministry is greatly appreciated both by neighbors in need and the entire volunteer Food Shelf staff. Peace and Gratitude to you all!

Holiday Giving Updates

Benevolence Committee



Thank You!

As the end draws to a close, the Benevolence committee would like to thank the congregation for their support with all the fundraising events we do throughout the year. Fall is extremely busy for our committee, and we know we ask a lot of you during this time. 75 coats and snowpants were donated to schools, 55 families received Thanksgiving gift cards and 60 families will receive help for Christmas at our Christmas Shoppe. So, thank you for helping us help so many! May your Christmas be blessed!

Christmas Shoppe

So many of our families have asked for clothes for their children this year. I know it isn't as fun as buying a toy, but if the need is there, we would like to help this year. We still want fun things, but these are the sizes being requested:

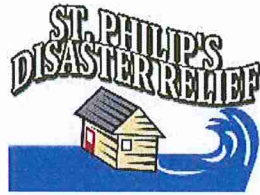
Boys – Sizes 7/8, 10

Girls – Sizes 7/8, 10, and 14/16

Men – Sizes Small & Medium

As you do your shopping, there are great sales on clothing now, and a long sleeve shirt, joggers, hoodies, and athletic pants will be appreciated. Ask your grandchildren what they would wear and go from there! Please bring donations to the church by Saturday, December 6. Thank you!

20th Anniversary St. Philip's Disaster Relief



Next year, 2026 will be the 20th Anniversary of St. Philip's Disaster Relief Ministry. To celebrate the occasion, Sunday, March 22, will be SPDR Sunday at both services followed by a dinner and program later in the afternoon. Please save this date on your calendar.

Also, a 20-year timeline is being designed, constructed, and displayed in the church office hallway. The timeline currently shows 2006 through 2014. Stop by and see what the SPDR ministry has accomplished in the past 20 years. The Journey Continues

December Events

Advent Worship

We welcome you to join us for Wednesday worship during the Advent season. We began with our Thanksgiving Eve service and will continue to meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm through December 17 in the Fellowship Hall. Beginning December 3, we will also have a 12:00 pm service. We invite you to bring a brown-bag lunch and join others in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

Evening Bible Study

We embark on a nine-week deep dive of the book, *The Bible, Simplified* by Zach Windahl beginning Wednesday, December 3. Join us each Wednesday (except for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve) at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall as we learn the entire storyline of the Bible, gain clarity and confidence in our faith, and incorporate the Bible's teachings in our daily lives. *The Bible, Simplified* can be purchased in the office.

Annual Christmas Pageant & Youth Holiday Market—December 7

Join us on Sunday, December 7 at the 9:00 am worship service as our Children, Youth & Family Program proudly presents its 2025 Christmas Pageant, "Back to the Manger"! And also come and see the Youth Holiday Market where they sell holiday gifts. Contact Connie with questions [ConnieY@splcmn.org].

Christmas Concert

We welcome you to a Christmas musical extravaganza on Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 pm. Come and listen to the sounds of the Sanctuary Choir, Bells of Praise, Worship Band, and more! Afterward, enjoy cookies, coffee, tea, and apple juice provided by the Parish Fellowship Committee. It is sure to be a great evening filled with joy and frivolity of the season!



GROW & SERVE

Endowment Fund

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

For more information on St. Philip's Endowment Fund visit our website at [www.splcmn.org].
Select the *Ministries* tab and click on *Endowment*.

Gifts were received in memory and honor of

Jim & Noreen Becker

Burt Ferrier

Lynette Thompson

Pat Wharton

Financials

St. Philip's 2025	Actual October	Actual YTD
Income	\$62,425.98	\$592,490.93
Expense	(\$73,440.23)	(\$592,490.93)
TOTALS	(\$11,014.25)	(\$44,062.29)

Office, Food & Clothing Shelf, and Community Supper Closures

Office: December 25, 26 (regular Friday closure), 29, and January 1

Food & Clothing Shelf: December 24, 26, 31

Community Supper: December 24 and 31



PRAYER

Life Events



Nila and Bud Carpenter on 12/7/1952 for 73 years

Mary and Ray Kukowski on 12/4/1965 for 60 years

Douglas and Miriam Haugland on 12/21/1974 for 51 years



11/30/2025

Theo Michael Lee-Jones

12/7/2025

Connor Thomas Heinrich



The friends and family of:

Jean Reveling

Merry Christmas



from the St. Philip's Staff!

Friendly Takeaway



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

Pastor Matt Flom, Pastor

MattF@splcmn.org, 763-231-0557

Pastor Darby Lawrence, Visitation Pastor

DarbyL@splcmn.org

Katie Buettner Business Manager

KatieS@splcmn.org, 763-231-0420

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JenniA@splcmn.org, 763-231-0414

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JerryS@splcmn.org, 763-231-0489

Connie Yerigan, Director of Faith Formation

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

Companion Congregation:

Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

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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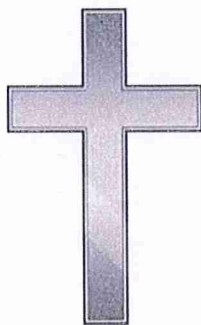
December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 1:00 pm Joy Circle	2 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	3 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 12:00 pm Advent Worship 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Advent Worship; Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:45 pm Gingerbread Bash 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; The Bible Simplified Book Study	4 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	5 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	6 10:00 am Pageant Rehearsal
7 8:30 am Youth Holiday Market 9:00 am Worship - Pageant 10:30 am Worship	8 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries	9 9:00 am Piano Tuning 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:00 pm Heritage Group Mtg.; Benevolence Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	10 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 10:00 am Women's Book Club; EA Mtg. 12:00 pm Advent Worship 1:00 pm Walking Alone Together 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Advent Worship; Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:45 pm Gingerbread Bash 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; The Bible Simplified Book Study	11 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	12 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	13 9:00 am Christmas Shoppe
14 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Christmas Concert	15 Friend Articles Due 10:00 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg.	16 9:00 am Library Group 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal 7:00 pm This is Most Certainly Brew	17 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 10:30 am P&G Mtg. 12:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; The Bible Simplified Book Study	18 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	19 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	20
21 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	22 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries; Knitters & Crocheters 6:30 pm BOA Mtg.	23 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	24 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW - Cancelled 10:00 am EA Mtg. 2:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed 5:15 pm Community Supper - Cancelled 7:00 pm No Bible Simplified Book Study 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed 10:30 am Christmas Day Worship 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	26 Office Closed 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed	27
28 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	29 Office Closed	30 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	31 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed 5:15 pm Community Supper - Cancelled 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; No Bible Simplified Book Study			



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).