



The Friend



January

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GROW & SERVE

Welcoming

Matt Flom, Pastor

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:7

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. We are well on our way to calling a new associate pastor. We hope to vote at the annual meeting on February 1 (God willing). It's an exciting time and we are looking forward to a new season in the life of our congregation. St. Philip's is known as a welcoming congregation. Again and again, our new members tell me how they were welcomed and taken care of by folks here. We should think about how we will welcome our new pastor. Here are some suggestions:

Pray for the new pastor and their family. We should all be praying for who God will send us and the members of their household. We should be praying for the call committee and our congregation. We should be praying every day.

Introduce ourselves. Everyone should make the effort to introduce themselves and wear name tags. Keep introducing yourself over the first few months. Remember, it's one new pastor and hundreds of members.

Avoid comparisons with the previous pastor. We all love and miss Pr. Eric; we were certainly blessed by his ministry. However, we need to learn to appreciate the new pastor's gifts, abilities, and style of doing things.

Invite the new pastor to our teams, committees, groups, and ministries. It's important that the new pastor gets to know what we do at St. Philip's. We should all make a point to invite the new pastor and show them what we do.

Be present and patient. We should show strong attendance on their first Sundays, give them space to adjust (respecting days off and settling time), and offer grace as everyone builds relationships.

I know the Holy Spirit is moving with and among our congregation as we begin a new chapter in the life of St. Philip's. Praise be to God for all of God's blessings upon us.

God's Peace,

Pr. Matt

A New Year, A Growing Faith

Connie Yerigan, *Director of Faith Formation*

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24

As we step into a new year, we do so with hearts full of gratitude and hope. A new year brings new beginnings, fresh opportunities, and renewed invitations to grow deeper in our faith together. God is always at work among us...sometimes in quiet ways, and sometimes in moments filled with laughter, music, and children's voices.

One of those moments was our recent Christmas pageant. What a beautiful reminder of the joy of the season and the power of the story we gather to tell year after year. Our children did an amazing job...bravely stepping into their roles, sharing their gifts, and bringing the story of Jesus' birth to life. From our tiny Mary and Joseph to our confident Grandma Betty, each child played an important part, and it showed. Beyond the costumes and the lines, the pageant was a glimpse of faith taking root. The children reminded us that the Christmas story is not just something we remember...it is something we live. Their enthusiasm, courage, and joy were a gift to our congregation and a reflection of God's love at work in our community.

As we move into this new year, we look forward to what God has in store. There will be many opportunities for learning, serving, worshiping, and growing together...opportunities for children, youth, and adults alike. May we continue to encourage one another, nurture faith in all ages, and remain open to where God is leading us next.

Thank you to our children, families, and volunteers who made the pageant such a meaningful experience. May the joy we witnessed carry us into the year ahead, grounded in faith, hope, and love.

Blessings,

Connie

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Happy New Year!

Brian Munsterman, President

Happy New Year! This is a great time to look back on the previous year and reflect on all that we have done. We have many things to be thankful for. There is continued growth in membership in our church, and this is from all the good that you are doing. We are in the process of calling a half time pastor. It is great to know that there is both a need and a want here for more than one full time and one part time visitation pastor. This shows all that we have going on. And with this new year, I look forward to all that it will bring. I look forward to seeing all the other wonderful things this amazing congregation will continue to do this year. We truly do have much to be thankful for and I am grateful to be part of it. I can't wait to see all that will be done in this coming year! I wish everyone peace and prosperity this year.

BOA Meeting Summary



- We had more discussion and voted on a budget to present to the congregation for 2026.
- We received an update on a possible new associate pastor and discussed possible meeting date changes.
- Regarding finances, we're close to breaking even for the year. We're hoping members are generous with year-end giving so we're able to meet our financial goals.

Food & Clothing Shelf 2026 Update

Since September of 2017 members of St. Philip's have supported the Food & Clothing Shelf as a stand-alone ministry and has not taken money from the general budget.

With generous member donations and grants from the endowment, parish fellowship and the garage sale, we purchase fresh food - no expired or rescue food past its best by date.

And though most of our clothing is donated, new underwear and pants often need to be purchased. Visitors are allowed to shop for and take two grocery bags of food and one bag of clothing if they choose. With the cost of both food and clothing and the number of visitors increasing, we expect demands on staff and our generous donors to be even greater in 2026.

We will continue to ask for and give thanks for your support of this valued ministry.

Until all are fed . . . and clothed,
St. Philip's Food & Clothing Shelf

Heritage Archives

Heritage Group

In early 2015 Paul Daniels, from the ELCA Congregational Archives and History, contacted St. Philip's regarding gathering and preserving archival and historical information about our church. By April of 2015, six St. Philip's members, including Arlene Hamernik, Grace Kurtz, Dick Lekang, Thelma Nash, Ron Seekamp, Marlin Sorum, along with Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheim and Business Administrator, Jeannine Arcand began working on St. Philip's history.

It has been over ten years, and the current Heritage Group agreed that it would be interesting to learn how we are doing. When Paul Daniels was contacted, we learned that he was in the process of retiring. His replacement, Caleb Rollins, was invited to attend our November meeting. Our plan was to show Caleb what we have accomplished and to find out if we were missing anything.

He complimented us on the progress we have made and encouraged us to continue.

From Caleb, we learned:

- The function of the Heritage Group is to determine what is important and how best to preserve these items.
- Records from a church are transferred to the ELCA Archive Office only after the congregation is no longer functioning.
- Currently the ELCA Archive Office is receiving paper and digital records.

Recommendations for St. Philip's from Caleb:

- Create a written procedure to document what to keep. The ELCA has guidelines on this.
- After scanning, keep the paper copy.
- Use acid-free boxes for storing paper items.
- Keep up to date with technology to ensure that digital items will be available in the future.
- Store digital records in multiple places.
- Save all church policy/procedures related to legal issues.

Items of interest to ELCA Archives include annual reports, board minutes, building projects, call committee minutes, large events, new pastors, pastoral acts, written history summaries, etc. Items that should not be sent to ELCA archives include financials, membership records, photos, slides, videos.

The work of the Heritage Group already has some of the recommendations partially or fully completed and will continue to determine what is important to retain and how to preserve the history of St. Philip's. New members to the group are always welcome. Meetings are held once a month with two optional work sessions scheduled each month. Contact Dick Lekang at [richardlekang@comcast.net] if interested in joining this group.

GROW & SERVE

January Events

Winter Break

The stockings are hung, the pageant is over, and our volunteers are deserving of a rest. The Children & Youth Discipleship class time will resume on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Annual Reports are Due

Please send your ministry/group/committee report to Jenni [jennia@splcmn.org] no later than Monday, January 5.

Tuesdays Together Resumes

Please join us as we reconvene for Tuesdays Together on January 6 at 1:00 pm in the Lounge.

The Bible Simplified Bible Study Resumes

January 7 – February 11, 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Observance of MLK Day

The staff will be observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19.

Save the Date – Annual Budget Forum

Please join us on Sunday, January 18 at 12:00 pm as we hold the 2026 Annual Budget Forum. We will discuss the budget in detail and answer questions that arise. This will help us prepare for the Annual Meeting.

Save the Date – St. Philip's Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1 at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, with a luncheon served beforehand.



St. Philip's Disaster Relief

The St. Philip's Disaster Relief (SPDR) ministry is mourning the loss of longtime coordinator Mike Anderson, who passed away December 10, 2025. Mike attended the very first meeting, in early 2006, that was held to gauge the interest at St. Philip's to help those impacted by Hurricane Katrina, which had devastated the Gulf Coast in August of 2005. That meeting led to his coordination of the first trip to Ocean Springs, MS, in the spring of 2006. That trip morphed into what would become SPDR and 86 additional trips and countless events that Mike, along with Renee Johnson, coordinated over the next two decades. He will be missed beyond measure. Mike's Celebration of Life will be January 9, 2026. His obituary can be found here: [<https://www.millerfuneralfridley.com/obituaries/michael-edwin-anderson>].

Mike's legacy will continue as the plans for SPDR's 20th Anniversary celebration move forward. An event planning committee was formed this past fall to decide how to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Sunday, March 22, will be SPDR Sunday at both worship services, followed by a dinner and program in the late afternoon. Save the date, and please plan to attend. Watch for more information in the coming months, including dinner/program details and ticket sales information.

Also, preliminary planning for the spring SPDR trip started a few weeks ago, and they are moving forward to determine a date and location. Watch for more information in the next couple of months.

The journey continues...for both SPDR and Mike.



The Journey Continues

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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

- Burt Ferrier
- Jean Reveling
- Lynette Thompson
- Pat Wharton



Financials

St. Philip’s 2025	Actual November	Actual YTD
Income	\$85,537.22	\$678,050.28
Expense	(\$56,957.07)	(\$693,510.29)
TOTALS	\$28,580.15	(\$15,460.01)



PRAYER

Life Events



Ronald and Marlene Hirth on 1/28/1961 for 65 years

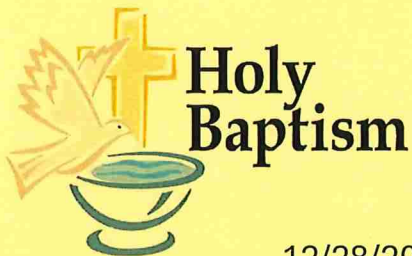
Roger and Sandra Goman on 1/26/1963 for 63 years

Susan and David Nelson on 1/1/1982 for 44 years

Dennis and DeeAnn Gritti on 1/15/2000 for 26 years

Dane and Dena Froiland on 1/10/2004 for 22 years

Piklu and Ratan Roy on 1/22/2010 for 16 years



12/28/2025

Sullivan Beard Thomson



The friends and family of:

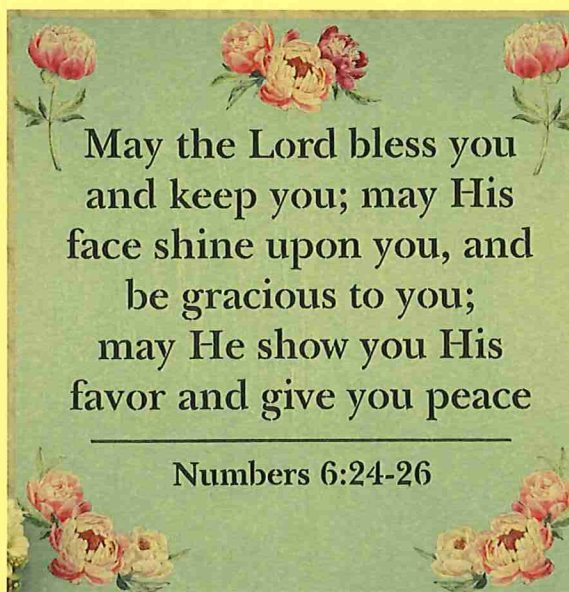
Mike Anderson

Paul Crawford

Ray LeClair

Ben Leyendecker

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

Jenni Anderson, Communications Director

JenniA@splcmn.org, 763-231-0414

Jerry Salitros, Bookkeeper

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

BOA@splcmn.org

Brian Munsterman, President

bmunsterman@comcast.net

Aaron Gondorchin, Vice-President

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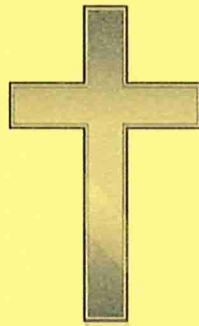
January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Happy New Year! Office Closed 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	2 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	3
4 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	5 9:00 am Annual Reports Due 1:00 pm Joy Circle	6 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	7 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 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; The Bible Simplified Book Study	8 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	9 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed	10
11 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	12 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries	13 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	14 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 5:15 pm Community Supper 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; The Bible Simplified Book Study	15 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	16 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	17
18 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Budget Forum	19 MLK Jr. Day Friend Articles Due Office Closed 10:00 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg.	20 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	21 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 5:15 pm Community Supper 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; The Bible Simplified Book Study	22 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	23 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	24
25 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	26 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries; Knitters & Crocheters 6:30 pm BOA Mtg.	27 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	28 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; Bible Simplified Book Study	29 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	30 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	31



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).