

The Friend



Join Us for Music Sunday!

Sunday, May 17
9:00 and 10:30 am

Bells of Praise
Children
Organ
Sanctuary Choir
Worship Band

May 2026

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GROW & SERVE

God will Wipe Away our Tears

Matt Flom, Pastor

*He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.*

Isaiah 25:8

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There are two seemingly opposing things going on this May. This month we have five funerals. That's the most in any single month I can remember. Folks are experiencing personal grief for their family members that have passed away. Many others are also grieving the loss of their friends; people they have gone to church with for years, served together in many ways, and friends they raised their children with. Even people who didn't know those who have died still have deep sympathy for the grieving. Whenever we encounter someone's death, we remember our own griefs and hurts. There will be much melancholy, much sadness, and much introspection this month.

Grief, however, is not the full story. As the prophet Isaiah reminds us, "He will swallow up death forever." When Christ rose from the dead, he made the way for us to rise as well to our own joyful resurrection. We may grieve much in this world, but our destiny is complete in Christ. Spring is a season where up here in the north lands the earth comes out of the winter tomb and has new life. The long dark days, piercing cold winds, and slick dangerous roads give way. Longer, brighter days give us energy. Greening grass and budding flowers give us joy. We wish to be outside in nature.

This dialectic, two things held together in tension, is a reflection of Biblical reality. As we journey through life, we will most certainly walk the path of grief. Life is pain. Life is also joy. God will indeed wipe away our tears. New life comes to us. The Word of the Lord endures forever; the Gospel which promises us eternal life with God in the world to come and new transformed life now. In this time of funerals, give thanks to God for the blessings of our loved ones and friends who have gone to be with God. Give thanks to God for all the blessings of spring and new life He has brought to us in Christ Jesus.

God's Peace,

Pr. Matt

Seeing God All Around Us

Connie Yerigan, *Director of Faith Formation*

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Grace and peace to you on this spring day. Lately some days have felt more like fall than spring, but even so each day is a gift from God. Every sunrise, every breath, every new beginning reminds us that God is always at work.

I try to encourage our children and youth to share highs, lows, and “God moments”. A God moment is simply a time when you notice God’s presence. Sometimes those moments are joyful and easy to see...laughter with friends and family, the beauty of nature, music that fills the soul, or the kindness from a friend. Other times, God moments appear quietly in harder seasons...in someone showing up to help, offering comfort, or reminding us that we are not alone.

When we begin looking for God, we often discover that God has been near all along. Even on difficult days, signs of grace surround us.

I see God so clearly in the volunteers who faithfully share their time, energy, and hearts with our children and youth each Sunday morning. Through welcoming smiles, caring conversations, helping hands, and the gift of simply showing up, they help create a place where young people know they belong and are loved.

I also see God in the way this congregation continually supports our youth with encouragement, prayers, generosity, and enthusiasm. Your care reminds them that they are an important part of this church family.

Speaking of support...you will have another opportunity this month to support our youth while filling your tummy with another delicious cinnamon roll sale! Presale sign-up will be available in the Narthex the two weeks beforehand so we can be sure everyone has a chance to enjoy a roll or two.

As we move through this season, I invite you to pause each day and ask yourself: Where did I see God today? You may find the answer in places you least expect.

Blessings, Connie

Polka Night Returns!

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader



Please set your calendar to Wednesday, June 3 for Polka Night, back by popular demand. Last year’s debut was a delight, beginning with a bratwurst supper, followed by a polka worship service, with original hymn texts (by Cheri Sykes), set to well-known polkas and waltzes. After the service, folks stayed to dance to a few more tunes. Our polka band is proudly in-house: the 10:30 am contemporary worship band, augmented by our own tuba ace James Haugan, and a visiting tenor sax polka pro. On June 3, the supper will be at 5:00 pm, with the worship at 6:00 pm. Don’t miss this one!

GROW & SERVE

Spring Has Sprung

Brian Munsterman, President

Spring is here! April showers bring May flowers! What a splendid time of year! I am glad for that. Time to start checking off the list of things to do around the house to get ready for the summer. I love how everything starts to grow anew this time of year. The weather gets warmer and the days get longer. I give thanks for all the newness and the rebirth of life.

I continue to give thanks for all that our wonderful congregation does for this church and our community. It truly is amazing all that you do. We have so much to look forward to. The St. Philip's Disaster Relief crew, 20 years strong, will be going to Milwaukee in the beginning of May to help with repairs from all the flooding that happened last August. Please continue to pray for a successful and safe trip with all their wonderful work. Then on May 16 is the Spring Cleanup Day, please help if you can. Then enjoy Music Sunday on May 17. I know I say this all the time, but our congregation is really truly wonderful in all the gifts that we share. I give thanks for these gifts. This is a great time to give thanks to the Lord for all that He provides us every year.

BOA Meeting Summary



- We're very thankful for the generous giving in March.
- We discussed the process of calling a new pastor and possible courses of action to help with the new member process and discipleship in the near future.
- We're celebrating 17 new members this spring.
- Due to the scheduled May BOA meeting falling on Memorial Day we voted to change the May meeting dates. The Exec meeting is moved to May 11th and the full BOA meeting is moved to May 18th.

Endowment Fund Grant Recipients

Polka Service - \$1200

St. Philip's Quilters - \$1000

Replace Office Laptops - \$3000

Sanctuary Decorating - \$2000

Parish Fellowship Festival of Tables - \$1000

Summer Picnic Jam - \$1400

Food Shelf - \$4000

Global Health - \$5000

Banner Advertisement - \$2000

Coats for Kids & Thanksgiving Gift Cards - \$1500

Library Fund - \$100

Floor Scrubber - \$2630.61

Total: \$24,830.61

New Books in the Library—Check them Out!

Book donations by members and friends are on the shelves now. Do you need some new reading material? Stop by the St. Philip's Church Library for some spring and summer inspiration.

Fiction

Mad Honey by Jodi Piccolt. Starting over is tough especially for your senior year of high school. Secrets and suspense and beekeeping are all part of this novel co-written by Jennifer Finney Boylan.

Children

I Can't believe They're Gone by Karen Brough. This is a children's book about grief, a tough subject for children, and the author brings a difficult subject down to the children's level.

Just Shine! by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The author shows readers how helping others makes the whole world brighter,

Leo's Lunch Box by Raphael G. Warnock. US Sen. Warnock retells the parable of the Feeding of the 5,000. Illustrated by TeMika Grooms.

The Right Thing to Do by Joe Schmidt. An incident in the life of Joe Mauer, a former Minnesota Twin.

Nonfiction

The Bible, Simplified. Windahl, Zach. Learn the story, live the story.

Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers by Frank Broyles. A practical tips guide.

Grief Recovery for Teens by Coral Popowitz. Powerful practices to help deal with physical aspects of grief and loss.

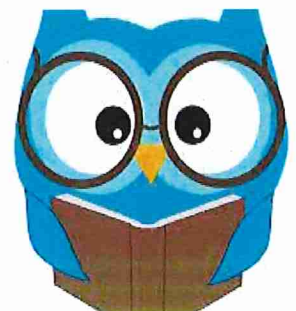
Hurt, Help, Hope by Clarissa Moll. A real conversation about teen grief and life after loss.

The Scandal of the Kingdom by Dallas Willard. How the parables of Jesus revolutionize life with God.

Think On These Things by Ray Comfort. L Wisdom for life from Proverbs.

A Few Nature Stories by former member Lynette Thompson featuring St. Philip's garden.

Something to Remember Me By, written by Susan B. Bosak. This is about grandmothers and granddaughters and celebrates the gift of love, memories and legacies across generations.



GROW & SERVE

Summer Benevolence Committee Activities

Most of the benevolence activities are held in late summer and fall. We hope to give you an opportunity to plan accordingly, so here are the donation requests for July and August:

Christmas in July

The Christmas tree will be up in the Mission Corner in early July with tags requesting items children would like to have. These gifts are used for our Christmas Shoppe event in December.

Backpacks

In August, we will hold our backpack fundraiser. This year, rather than donating an actual backpack (although you certainly may) we will have a board with tags in the Mission Corner that have dollar amounts indicated on them. You may donate any amount you wish and we will purchase as many backpacks as the donations allow. High School and middle school backpacks are expensive so doing it this way allows everyone to be involved in this meaningful event!

Milwaukee Trip #2

St. Philip's Disaster Relief



St. Philip's Disaster Relief (SPDR) is headed back to Milwaukee, WI, May 3 - 9. The first Milwaukee trip, in February, consisted of six team members working 3 ½ days at one location. This team will have thirty-one team members working five days in several locations.

Thousands of homes in five Milwaukee area counties sustained damage last August after record breaking rainfall. In an area of northwest Milwaukee, over 14 ½" of rain fell in a 24-hour period. This set a new all-time Wisconsin record, breaking the previous mark of 11.7" set in June of 1946. Over 26,000 households were identified by FEMA as having major damage or repair needs significant enough to affect habitability. Many of these homes still need repairs such as installation of drywall; mudding and taping; replacing flooring, trim, doors, and electrical devices; cleaning and painting; and more. Many of the members of this SPDR team have the skills to do most of these tasks and the others are willing to learn. Also, many of the same areas of Milwaukee had two additional heavy rainfall events in late April resulting in more flooding. SPDR team members may be involved in mucking or gutting these newly-flooded homes.

You can follow the team's activities May 3-9 on SPDR's webpage [<https://splcmn.org/spdr/>] or on Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsdisasterrelief/>].

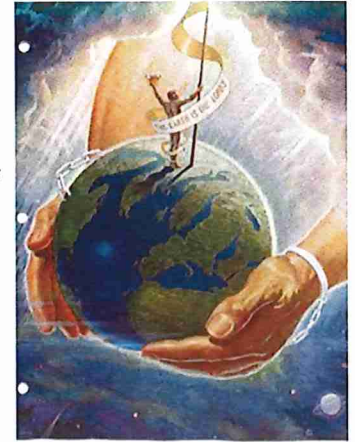
The team leaves St. Philip's on Sunday, May 3 and invites you to see them off. There will be a gathering at 8:30 am for the team along with St. Philip's members, family, and friends in the Lounge followed by the send-off of the caravan (seven cars and two trailers) at 8:45 am in the driveway between Door #2 and Door #3. This is the fifth largest team in SDPR's history and it would be great to have a large group of supporters to see them off on this journey.

Bethel Bible Series

Heritage Group

The Bethel Bible Series was written by Dr. Morris Wee, Senior Pastor and Rev. Harley Swiggum, Associate Pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin. The first workshops were held in Madison in the summer of 1961.

Involvement by St. Philip's began in 1962, when the Board approved enrollment of the congregation. Pastor Egge attended a two-week training session in Madison in July 1962. Pastor Egge's last day was December 31, 1962, and Pastor Eitrheim began on February 11, 1963. Like Egge, Eitrheim had attended the pastor training sessions in Madison and was ready to begin teaching at St. Philip's. By September 1963, the first teacher training session began. The class consisted of 6 men and 6 women.



This was a two-year study program held on Wednesday nights. There were 20 Old Testament and 20 New Testament units. Illustrations were used to communicate the concepts within the unit. Each unit covered key biblical concepts, referencing biblical texts. Courses were taught by lay teachers who had been through the teacher training program under the direction of Pastor Eitrheim. From 1962-1967, 320 members of the congregation had been enrolled in the program.

Thank you to those who responded to last month's newsletter article requesting recollections and comments on your Bethel experience. Some of the comments were edited to fit the allowed space.

I took these classes in the 1960s at First Lutheran Church while we lived in Duluth. I found them very interesting, but what impressed me the most were the illustrations and how they related to each topic. I no longer have any of the materials from the class but remember feeling it was worth the time spent.

The Bethel series was wonderful in that many friendships were made as one discussed one's faith with other people of like beliefs. It was great in teaching Bible history and background. The memorization was challenging but gave us a nice foundation. It certainly awoke a desire to learn more about the Bible.

Bethel Bible Study was the best study of the Bible ever, no comparison. The pictures and concepts made the Bible come alive. It was a commitment during a busy time in our life, but well worth it.

And finally, from Ron Seekamp. Ron was in the first group to take training from Pastor Eitrheim and then was a teacher to many. Ron remembers driving into downtown Minneapolis one snowy February day to hear the Rev Harley Swiggum speak about the Bethel Series. He remembers how the St. Philip's Board approved congregational enrollment into the series. Unfortunately, the \$500 needed to purchase a set of illustrations was not in the budget. Ron remembers he and Clem Coverston visiting members asking for \$10 donations to raise the necessary funds.

GROW & SERVE

Meals on Wheels



The last week in April brought showers of smiles and greetings to our neighbors receiving Meals on Wheels. Many thanks to our faithful drivers: Renee & Mike Youngberg, Cathy Challman, Jennifer & Ron Prasek, Kathy and Chuck Eichelberger, Phyllis & Larry Ehlers, Monica Anderson, Deb & Mike Carroll, Nick Pongratz. Next delivery will be June 22-26. Call Dawn at [612-270-0326] if you would like to volunteer.

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

Roger Goman

Bev Sperry

Thank you for your support!

Financials

St. Philip's 2026	Actual March	Actual YTD
Income	\$75,423.93	\$176,969.35
Expense	(\$61,455.99)	(\$196,729.51)
TOTALS	\$13,967.94	(\$19,760.16)

Life Events



Gloria and Leslie Coleman on 5/9/1959 for 67 years

Jonathan and Neoma Haugan on 5/26/1984 for 42 years

Clarence and Constance Asche on 5/30/1960 for 66 years

Dan and Patty Porter on 5/19/1984 for 42 years

Tom and Marlene Schonebaum on 5/19/1962 for 64 years

Scott and Sandy Long on 5/18/1985 for 41 years

Edward and Sharon Aune on 5/22/1971 for 55 years

Ronda and Seth Bertsch on 5/31/2008 for 18 years

Mike and Deb Carroll on 5/19/1979 for 47 years

Chad and Gina Munsterman on 5/10/2008 for 18 years

Jon and Mary Johnson on 5/9/1981 for 45 years

Bryant and Melissa Holmstrom on 5/22/2015 for 11 years

Tom and Kara Ruwart on 5/15/1982 for 44 years



The friends and family of:

Mike Brockway

Mary Ellen Carlson

Bud Carpenter

Donald Holum



4/19/2026

Isaac Jiho Mathre

Friendly Takeaway



St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

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Pastoral Emergency Phone: 763-571-1500

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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

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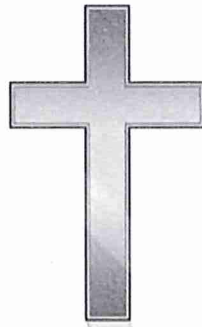
May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	2
3 SPDR Team Leaves for Milwaukee, WI 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 9:45 am Senior Graduate Celebration 10:30 am Worship	4 1:00 pm Joy Circle	5 Cinco de Mayo 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	6 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	7 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	8 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	9 SPDR Team returns from Milwaukee, WI
10 Mother's Day 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	11 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 6:30 pm Executive Mtg.	12 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	13 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	14 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	15 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	16
17 Music Sunday 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	18 Friend Articles Due 10:00 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm BOA Mtg.	19 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	20 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	21 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	22 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	23
24 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries	26 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	27 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper	28 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	29 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	30
31 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship						



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).