

The Friend



Join Us for Worship!

9:00 am - Traditional

10:30 am - Contemporary

July 2026

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Transition

Matt Flom, Pastor

*For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Seasons come and seasons go; change is our constant. I want to give you all an update on the call process for the new associate pastor and some staff changes here at St. Philip's. Rita Schwieters has jumped right in as our new Director of Membership & Connections. She is shepherding the new member process and getting people connected with the congregation and to the ministries that God is calling them to do. As we get more and more visitors and new members, this process is vital to the growth of God's kingdom here.

I'm sad to announce that Pr. Darby, our visitation pastor, has taken a position as an interim pastor in the South West Synod. We were blessed by his ministry and presence, but now he will be a blessing to a different congregation. So, I'm actively looking for a new visitation pastor. I am confident that we will find someone wonderful to be our new visitation pastor before the end of the summer.

Julie Luek, our organist, is stepping back from that role. Julie and her husband, Bill, will still be active members of our congregation, but she would like to spend more time with family. She will still play for us at different times and she will continue in her role until we find a new organist.

Our call committee is still active and we are praying and waiting for the candidate that God has for us. As we wait, I'll also be checking with the seminary to see if they have a student who needs an internship congregation. I've supervised interns before and it has been a great blessing. The time that congregations spend seeking a pastor has grown greatly in the last few years, so our process is actually quite normal. All things in God's good time.

I hope you will join me in prayer for all these transitions during your daily devotions. Prayer is the power of the church and it is the start and finish of all we do. Our congregation is growing and changing, God is leading us, and we are truly blessed.

God's Peace,

Pr. Matt

Loving our Neighbors and Growing in Faith

Connie Yerigan, *Director of Faith Formation*

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." — 1 John 3:18

Summer has a way of reminding us that God is constantly at work—in our church, in our community, and in the ordinary moments of everyday life. As the days fill with sunshine, activities, and opportunities to gather together, I find myself grateful for the many ways I see faith being lived out by the people of St. Philip's.

One of the highlights of the summer was Vacation Bible School. Throughout the week, children and volunteers explored Jesus' teaching, "Who is my neighbor?" Together we learned that being a neighbor is more than living nearby—it is about showing kindness, compassion, and love to everyone we meet. It was a joy to watch children learn, laugh, serve, and grow in their faith while being surrounded by so many caring volunteers who generously shared their time and gifts.

This summer also brings opportunities for our youth to serve through our mission trip to Omaha. I am continually inspired by the willingness of our young people to step outside of their comfort zones and use their gifts to help others. Service experiences like these remind us that faith is not something we simply talk about on Sunday mornings; it is something we live out every day through acts of love and care for our neighbors.

As I reflect on the ministries of St. Philip's, I am reminded that none of this happens alone. Every volunteer, donor, prayer warrior, teacher, mentor, and supporter helps create a place where people of all ages can grow in faith and experience God's love. Thank you for the many ways you serve and support the ministry we share together.

May we continue to look for God at work around us and find opportunities each day to be good neighbors, sharing Christ's love with the world.

With Gratitude,

Connie

Fridley 49ers Parade - July 16

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

St. Philip's will again this year be represented in the Fridley '49ers Parade, Thursday, July 16, 6:30pm. Come cheer our float's joyful message, with the Worship Band performing our best upbeat tunes along the parade route. We were rained out last year, so we'll be singing twice as loud this year to make up for it. For more information: <https://www.fridleymn.gov/Community-Recreation/Events/Fridley-49er-Days>

Being Radically Welcoming

Rita Schwieters, Director of Membership & Connections

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:37*

Dear St. Philip's Congregation,

I am so excited to begin this journey as the Director of Membership and Connections. Ever since I started attending St. Philip's a little over 3 years ago, I have continued to be impressed by how warm and welcoming everyone is. I started out volunteering with the Community Supper and have spent some time with the Gardeners and Quilters as well. Everyone has been incredibly welcoming, even when I show up unannounced, with my kids, who may or may not be behaving that day. In this role, I hope to showcase this congregation's warmth and create an environment of radical welcome. You have been a congregation that showed up for me; you fostered my growth in faith and in church life. Now, we begin this journey together of fostering new members as they make their way to St. Philip's and join us in worship. I ask you to please take some time to pray for me in this new role. That God may work through me to bring people to new life in Christ and to a radically warm welcome here at St. Philip's.

In this role, I will be working part-time to connect with our guests and newer members and help get people connected in our congregation. I invite you all to introduce guests to me or give them my contact information. If you'd like to help out with the welcome team, we have many volunteer opportunities, both behind the scenes and face to face with guests. What would a radical welcome look like to you?

Celebrate

Brian Munsterman, President

July is here! Let's celebrate! I remember as a kid that summers meant relaxing, playing all day, not having a care in the world. July meant Independence Day with fireworks and camping. Summer nowadays seems to be much, much busier.

During June, Pride was celebrated. I love seeing St Philip's embracing our welcoming stance for all and showing this to the community. Vacation Bible study was another huge success this year! All the kids enjoyed it. Polka Night was a blast and fun was had by all that attended.

This month, St Philips will have our first ever Summer Picnic Jam! This will be a great event, and I hope all of you will be able to attend. There will be food and music, so get your dancing shoes ready. We will also have a float in the Fridley 49er Days again this year! Make sure you cheer them on. We also celebrate Independence Day and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This is a time to celebrate our freedom. A time where ALL are free to be who they are and be welcomed. A time where we are free to welcome Christ into our lives. Let's celebrate our freedoms and continue to welcome all. I hope you all are able to continue to enjoy the summer months.

BOA Meeting Summary



- We talked about the Summer Picnic Jam that's coming up on July 15th.
- Another bible study group will be starting up soon.
- Volunteers will be needed the last week of July to help set up for the garage sale.
- We're still looking for someone to finish out Rita's term as BOA member at large.

Did You Know?

Free Access to RightNow Media

Did you know that as a member of St. Philip's, you have free access to RightNow Media?

Think of it as a faith-based streaming library filled with thousands of Bible studies, devotionals, videos for children and youth, parenting resources, book studies, and content for every stage of life. Whether you're looking to grow in your faith, find a new small group study, or simply explore inspiring Christian content, RightNow Media has something for everyone.

Getting started is easy! Simply visit: [<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/splcmn>].

Take some time to explore—you might just discover your next favorite study or devotional resource.

Access Past Funeral Services

Did you know that recordings of many past funeral services are available on our website?

We know that grief doesn't follow a timeline, and sometimes there is comfort in revisiting a service, hearing familiar words, or sharing a loved one's service with family and friends who were unable to attend.

To access funeral recordings, visit our website and click on the Life Events tab on the homepage. From the drop-down menu, select Funeral. Once on that page, scroll down to the section that says, "To view recordings of past Funeral Services, please click [HERE](#)."

We hope this resource provides comfort, connection, and a way to honor cherished memories.

Meet Our Team

Did you know there's an updated Our Team page on the St. Philip's website?

Each member of our staff has shared a short biography, giving you a glimpse into who we are, what we do, and what we enjoy outside of church. It's a fun way to put a few more stories behind the faces you see each week and get to know the people who serve alongside you in ministry.

We invite you to stop by the Our Team page and learn a little more about the staff who are honored to serve the St. Philip's community.

Columbarium News & Update

The Columbarium committee is excited to announce that the Columbarium has had a face lift. A crew has completed the restoration of the grounds. The Hosta plants have been separated and dead ones have been replaced. New chips have been added. The cobblestones have been cleaned and leveled. The lower-level overgrown ground cover has been removed and replaced with all new plants. The stepping stone pathway on the garage side of the Columbarium has been moved and cleaned up. And ground lights are scheduled to be added at the base of the eventual Columbarium space to be installed on the garage side of fellowship hall windows. Please feel free to visit the beautiful grounds.

To date 81 of 93 niches have been sold since its installation in 2015. Twelve niches are still available for sale and when all are sold plans are being made to install a second Columbarium on the footings already installed on the right side of the Fellowship Hall windows.



Christmas in July

We have just begun our summer heat, so of course we should discuss Christmas in July! Each year we give you a chance to purchase items to be used in our Christmas Shoppe, which is held the second Saturday in December. There are tags with gift suggestions on the trees in the Mission Corner. You may take one (or as many as you would like) and purchase the items and return it to the Mission Corner or office. We will have trees up in November as well, should you want to do your Christmas shopping at that time. Thank you!

29th Annual Garage Sale



Donations help make the garage sale a huge success! If you are able, we encourage you to donate items to the Garage Sale. The more donated the more we can sell – and the more we can raise! So start sorting and saving your gently used items to donate. And tell your friends and family – we gladly accept donations from the community for the sale. We also need paper grocery bags with handles donated.

Donations for the garage sale can be dropped off:

August 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
					1st Day to Drop Off Donations 9:00am to 7:00pm	Donation Drop-Off 9:00am to 4:00pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Donation Drop-Off 9:00am to 12:00pm	Donation Drop-Off 9:00 am to 5:00pm	Donation Drop-Off 9:00am to 5:00pm	Donation Drop-Off 9:00am to 5:00pm	Donation Drop-Off 9:00 am to 5:00pm	Donation Drop-Off 9:00am to 5:00pm	Last Day to Drop Off Donations 9:00am to 1:00pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Garage Sale 5:00 to 8:00pm (\$3/admission)	Garage Sale 9:00am to 7:00pm	Garage Sale 9:00am to 7:00pm	Garage Sale Everything ½ Price! 9:00am to 12:00pm

What we CAN accept: gently used clothing & shoes (adult and children’s), household goods, small appliances, craft and sewing supplies, jewelry, small chairs, lamps, end tables, collectibles, wall art and frames, decorative & holiday pieces, books, linens, tools/hardware items, lawn furniture, sporting goods, luggage, and toys.

What we CANNOT accept: men’s sport coats and suits, bed frames and headboards, mattresses, bed pillows, TV’s, car seats, playpens, cribs, VHS/cassette tapes, Christmas trees, computers, monitors, printers, encyclopedias, large exercise equipment, chemicals, and fluorescent and CFL bulbs (new or used).

NO Large Furniture accepted – if one person can’t lift it, we can’t take it. Thank you for understanding!

Contact LaRae Kazmierkoski [763- 571-4266 or laraekaz@aol.com] if you are interested in volunteering.

Bemidji Trip

St. Philip's Disaster Relief



In early April, St. Philip's Disaster Relief (SPDR) joined the MNVOAD (Minnesota Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) with the hope of finding out ways to help with any local disasters. Two SPDR team members attended the MNVOAD Annual Conference in late April. One of the speakers there was Denae Alamano, the executive director of United Way of Bemidji Area. Her presentation included the immense amount of work done through the United Way in the first few weeks after the June 21, 2025 windstorm that hit Bemidji with a 10-mile-wide swath of destruction, of 9 million trees, from winds of 120 mph. Denae also spoke of the damaged homes that still need rebuilding help, eight months after the storm. That prompted the SPDR team members to speak with her afterwards about those homes. The conversation led to additional communication with Denae and her staff and the early stages of plans for SPDR to send a team to Bemidji in July.

The trip will be short (July 19-22) and will include a small number of team members. That number will be determined by the available lodging and the amount and type of work available. If you are interested in being part of this Bemidji team, send an email to SPDR at spdr@splcmn.org or call Renee Johnson (612-202-1959) for additional information. This trip will possibly lead to Bemidji as the destination for the SPDR fall trip. SPDR is excited to be able to help our neighbors in Bemidji as the journey continues...

Meals on Wheels



The amazing Meals on Wheels volunteers don't take a summer vacation from delivering meals! June delivery was by: Renee & Mike Youngberg, Cathy Challman, Kathy & Chuck Eichelberger, Carole & Jerry Jensen, Sandy and Eldy Nelson, Olga & Mary Palmer, Gidget & Edd Brooks, Phyllis & Larry Ehlers, Mary & Rod Shimanski, Deb & Mike Carroll. Thank you to all of you for being the hands and feet of our Lord. Our next delivery date is August 17-21.

Calling all Coffee Drinkers!

Help is needed to keep the coffee program going on Sunday mornings. Instructions and training are available. Please contact [\[tmklruwart@gmail.com\]](mailto:tmklruwart@gmail.com) if you are interested or have questions.

Financials

St. Philip's 2026	Actual May	Actual YTD
Income	\$42,971.92	\$298,904.28
Expense	(\$59,219.43)	(\$311,411.47)
Total	(\$16,247.51)	(\$12,507.19)

Life Events

Endowment Fund

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

For more information on St. Philip's Endowment Fund visit our website at [www.splcmn.org].

Gifts were received in memory and honor of

Mary Ellen Carlson

Bud Carpenter

Roger Goman

Duane Prairie

Bev Sperry

Grace Wilson



James and Miriam Hougen on 7/30/1961 for 65 years

Fred and Janice Kunze on 7/28/1962 for 64 years

Roger and Mary Gehrke on 7/10/1965 for 61 years

Gordon and Dorothy Kuluvar on 7/30/1967 for 59 years

John and Margaret Fricke on 7/21/1968 for 5 years

Ralph and Janet Thompto on 7/9/1968 for 58 years

Ronald and Charmaine Cadwell on 7/31/1971 for 55 years

Todd and Jody Bjerknes on 7/19/1975 for 51 years

Larry and Kathy Weegman on 7/18/1981 for 45 years

Murray and Miriam Jensen on 7/14/1984 for 42 years

Ann and Mike Kozarek on 7/26/2003 for 23 years

Elizabeth and William Wackman on 7/12/2003 for 23 years

Ryan and Ingrid Kleinjan on 7/23/2004 for 22 years

Dan and Katie Mae Pritchard on 7/2/2004 for 22 years

Julie and Bill Lueck on 7/24/2010 for 16 years

Matthew and Jennifer Brooks on 7/14/2012 for 14 years



The friends and family of:

Eva Coverston

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

Katie Buettner Business Manager

KatieS@splcmn.org, 763-231-0420

Jenni Anderson, Communications Director

JenniA@splcmn.org, 763-231-0414

Rita Schwieters, Director of Membership & Connections

RitaS@splcmn.org

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

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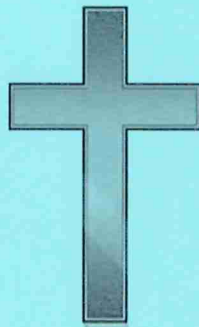
July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>1 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</p>	<p>2 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>3 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed</p>	<p>4 Independence Day</p>
<p>5 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>6 Office Closed 1:00 pm Joy Circle</p>	<p>7 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 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</p>	<p>9 7:30 pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>10 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9:00 am Worship; Christmas in July 10:00 am Youth Mission Trip BBQ 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>13 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries</p>	<p>14 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 2:00 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 10:30 am P&G Mtg. 5:00pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper; Summer Picnic Jam</p>	<p>16 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 10:00 am Columbarium Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>17 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:00 am Worship; Christmas in July 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>20 Friend Articles Due 10:00 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg.</p>	<p>21 9:00 am Library Group 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal 7:00 pm This is Most Certainly Brew</p>	<p>22 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper</p>	<p>23 7:30 pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>24 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Mission Trip 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm New Member Class</p>	<p>27 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 6:30 pm BOA Mtg.</p>	<p>28 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>29 Garage Sale Setup 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper</p>	<p>30 Garage Sale Setup 7:30 pm AA Mtg.</p>	<p>31 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).