

The Friend



Happy October

May this month be
filled with God's
goodness and grace



October 2026

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Lutheran Heritage and Identity

Matt Flom, Pastor

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek, 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

Romans 1:16-18

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. October is upon us and it's a busy and wonderful time of year. At the end of the month, we have Trunk & Treat. It's so much fun and easy to help with. If you have a vehicle, we can provide decorations and candy for you to hand out. It's a great outreach to the community. October also brings us Confirmation Sunday and Reformation Sunday, which are both the last Sunday in October. It is always wonderful to see our young people affirming their baptismal faith. We can support them by welcoming them into the life of the congregation in this new season of their life.

Reformation Sunday is when we celebrate our Lutheran heritage and identity. We are sometimes shy about our Lutheran identity. We want to be proud, but not too proud of being Lutheran. In our sense of humility we can fail to share with the world the important contributions Lutherans bring to the faith family of the greater Christian church. Our forebearers in the faith had the courage and fortitude to bring reforms to Christ's holy church, even in the face of persecution and martyrdom. Through the centuries we champion the truth that God's Word comes to us as Law and Gospel. We hold dear to God's enduring grace because we know that the people of faith are at the same time both saint and sinner. We proclaim the Gospel purely; unfettered by works righteousness. We administer the sacraments according to the scriptures. Our doctrines of the faith stand as a bulwark against materialism of the prosperity gospel, the self-righteousness of judgmentalism, and the close-mindedness of fundamentalism. If we Lutherans fail to carry on our great teachings, the world will be a lesser place. We should be proud of the theological gifts God has given us through the reformers and continue to use them to serve God by serving God's world. As Luther said, God doesn't need our help, but our neighbor does. The world also needs to hear about Lutheranism; we need to be a church that is always reforming.

God's Peace,

Pr. Matt

Rooted Together: Growing in Faith & Community

Connie Yerigan, *Director of Faith Formation*

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. — Colossians 2:7

What a wonderful start to our program year! Rally Sunday was such a fun day, and I am so thankful to everyone who joined us for worship, brunch, games, laughter, and fellowship. A special thank you to our Parish Fellowship team and everyone who helped make the morning so welcoming and fun!

I also have to take a moment to celebrate our incredible youth who helped lead worship on Rally Sunday. They did such a wonderful job, and I am so incredibly proud of them! Watching our young people stem forward, share their gifts, and take an active role in worship is such a beautiful reminder of what faith formation is all about. Our children and youth aren't just the future of the church...they are an important part of the church right now.

We have also officially kicked off our Wednesday evening programming, and it has been so exciting to see Rooted Wednesdays come to life! Gathering around the table for a meal, worshipping together, and then learning and growing in faith alongside one another is exactly what we hoped these evenings would be. It has been a wonderful beginning, and I can't wait to see how we continue to grow together throughout the year.

And October is bringing even more to look forward to! On Sunday, October 11, we will celebrate our annual Bible Presentation Sunday. Children who are new to St. Philip's and registered in our Children, Youth & Family programming will receive a Bible, along with children entering new stages of their faith journey in 3rd and 6th grade.

This year, I am especially excited that all of our middle and high school youth will receive new NLT Student Life Application Study Bibles! These Bibles are designed to invite young readers into a deeper knowledge of God and God's work in the world. They feature the easy-to-read New Living Translation, a beautiful full-color interior designed with young readers in mind, and access to the Filament Bible app. I am so excited to place these Bibles into the hands of our youth and see where God's Word takes them!

On Sunday, October 25, we will celebrate Confirmation Sunday as part of our Reformation Sunday worship. This is such a meaningful day as we surround our youth with love and support as they stand before their church family and affirm their faith. I hope you'll join us as we celebrate this important step in their faith journeys.

And, of course, we can't let October end without Trunk & Treat! Decorate your trunk, grab some candy, and join in the fun...or bring the littles in your life to safely trick-or-treat the night away. It's always such a fun evening for our church and community. Join us on Halloween night...5:30 to 7:30 pm.

As always, thank you for the many ways you support the children and youth of St. Philip's. Whether you teach, volunteer, provide a meal, offer encouragement, give financially, pray for our kids, or simply show up and cheer them on, it matters. Your generosity and support speak volumes about how deeply this congregation loves its children and youth. I am so grateful for the way we are beginning this year together...rooted in God's love, rooted in God's Word, and rooted in community. And we're just getting started!

Grateful Change

Brian Munsterman, President

Grateful change. Are we sure that these two words belong together? When we think about change, change to most is uncomfortable yet change happens every year. We have the changing of the seasons – and to me that is beautiful. As we move from Summer into Fall, the trees seem to contemplate if they keep their leaves green, or let them become vibrant colors of red, orange and yellow. The farmers harvest their crops and prepare for the winter months. The weather is cooling and people are starting to do more things indoors. These are changes that happen all the time, yet people don't seem to fret about most of this – well, maybe they do about the weather that we can expect in the next season. As we at St Philip's continually change, God shows us that change is beautiful and refreshing. And for that, I am grateful.

Congratulations to those being confirmed this month on Reformation Sunday! We are all so proud of you. Being confirmed is not the end of class, but a beautiful beginning. It is the next step in continuing to grow in your faith. As a congregation, let's please stand beside them and support them with our prayers and our love as they continue to grow in the grace of God.

Another change that I have noticed over the past several years is the way that giving is done. Instead of consistent monthly giving, there has been a trend to give quarterly, bi-yearly or yearly. Whatever works for you, we appreciate it as we would not be able to carry out our ministries without that support. As we come into our stewardship campaign, please prayerfully consider what you can provide next year. Please fill out and turn in the pledge cards as that helps us plan.

The month will end with our annual Trunk & Treat in the church parking lot. It is always fun to see the creative and ghoulishly fun costumes that the kids (and adults) dress up as. This is another fun ministry that I am grateful St Philip's provides to both the members of our congregation and community. I hope everyone has a Happy Halloween!

BOA Meeting Summary



- Connie Yerigan presented a proposed Child, Youth & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy that is required by the synod. BOA members will read through it this month. At the October meeting we'll discuss any needed changes and approve a policy to be submitted to the synod.
- Further discussion & vote on a food truck policy was tabled until the January meeting.
- We're excited to have such a large group for the upcoming new member class on Oct 4th.

Calling All Singers!



The 10:30 Worship Band is always seeking singers! Spread joy through music with us! Because you are singing into a microphone, you need a good "blending" voice that is in tune. However, you don't need to be a soloist. You may contribute occasionally, or more often. We'll work with your schedule. Join the party/rehearsal on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm! Then we lead congregational song every Sunday at 10:30am. Check us out on [<https://splcmn.org/worship-band-videos/>]. Please contact Cheri Sykes [651-335-0048 or cheris@splcmn.org].

Feed His Sheep

Rita Schwieters, Director of Membership & Connections

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep..." John 21: 17

We have finished September and with it goes our first sessions of the program year. We continue to get new and return visitors at all three services. Our regular scheduled services have an excellent network of unofficial greeters who are getting to know our guests. I want you to know that I see you and I appreciate you. As members of Christ's church, we have an important responsibility to feed his sheep. When someone converts to Christianity, they may not have any Christian friends or family, they may not own a Bible, be baptized, know how to pray, or have anyone to pray for them. You might be the one person in their path with the power to feed their spirit. Ask them if they have a Bible, we have free giveaway Bibles in the usher closet. Ask about their faith story, share your witness; if they're not baptized or not communing, do they want to be? You can walk them right over to Pr. Matt or myself and we can talk to them. Ask visitors if there's anything they need prayer for and model how to pray by praying for them on the spot. These are a few small ways you can help feed the new sheep who don't yet know their shepherd's voice. Wednesday nights offer additional opportunities. There's literally food thanks to the community supper, worship, and adult discipleship. We've been focusing on the discipline of prayer, with opportunities to practice improvisational prayer. Soon we will move on to the discipline of witnessing. These sessions are open to everyone, there is an email chain for anyone interested, but drop-ins are always welcomed. Come to one session or come regularly. Bring anything that's on your heart with regard to your faith; this is your invitation to delve deeper into your personal relationship with Christ.

Joyann Parker Trio in Concert

"From Spirituals to Sam Cooke: The History of Gospel"

Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 4:00pm

As part of St. Philip's ongoing Concert Series, we welcome American roots singer-songwriter, Joyann Parker, along with musical partner, guitarist Mark Lamoine and esteemed upright bassist Chris Bates, presenting "From Spirituals to Sam Cooke: The History of Gospel."

"Filled with history, hope, and heart, this captivating performance showcases a delightful mix of traditional hymns, Southern gospel, blues, and mountain music, all beautifully rendered by Parker, an internationally acclaimed touring artist, hailed by the Pasadena Weekly as "a singing, songwriting, guitar-playing, self-producing, self-aware powerhouse."

Joyann intertwines story and song to chronicle the evolution of gospel music from its roots in slavery continuing up through the vocal groups of the 1960's as it transitioned into modern R&B and includes music from The Staples Singers, Dixie Hummingbirds and more.

This show is a moving and unforgettable experience, celebrating the cultural significance of gospel while touching the hearts of its audience."

Please visit [www.joyannparker.com] for more information. Tickets are \$20 at the door. We hope you'll join us!



Financials

St. Philip's 2026	Actual August	Actual YTD
Income	\$53,861.70	\$468,439.75
Expense	(\$57,839.90)	(\$497,813.25)
Total	(\$3,978.20)	(\$29,373.50)

Milwaukee Trip #3

St. Philip's Disaster Relief



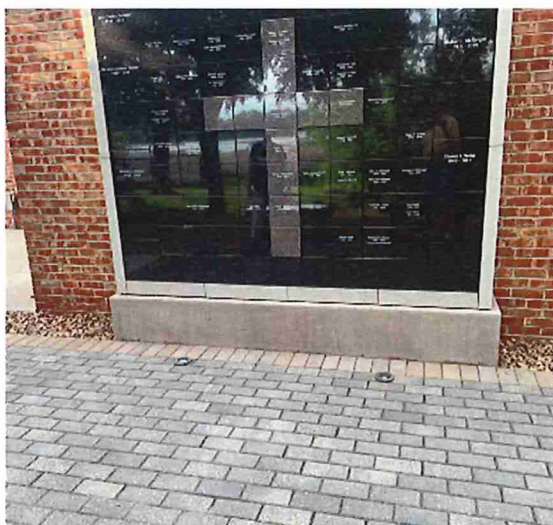
St. Philip's Disaster Relief (SPDR) will again be in Milwaukee, WI helping to rebuild homes. In August 2025, thousands of homes in the Milwaukee area were damaged following record-breaking rainfall. Some parts of the area flooded again in April 2026. Many of these homes still need repairs such as installation of drywall; mudding and taping; replacing flooring, trim, doors, and electrical devices; cleaning and painting; and more. The SPDR team members might be doing all of these!

The dates of the trip are Sept. 27 – Oct. 3. There will be 24 team members on the trip. This is SPDR's 91st trip! Follow the team's activities on SPDR's webpage [<https://splcmn.org/spdr/>] or on Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsdisasterrelief/>].

Columbarium News

The Columbarium Committee voted to proceed with the installation of the second Columbarium. This second Columbarium section has been in the plan from day one of the Columbarium Project. Now that we are down to 9 remaining niches we felt it necessary to have a new one installed. The base footings for the second Columbarium were installed at the time of the original installation so the base is already there for the new section. Prices for the remaining niches of the original Columbarium will remain the same. However, with the increase in prices since the last Columbarium was installed eleven years ago, the niches on the new Columbarium will have to be raised. Pricing has yet to be determined. Much maintenance has been done in the past year to upgrade and improve the aesthetics of the Columbarium grounds, and we are excited to be adding this new Columbarium section as a completion of the work. Be on the lookout for construction, which most likely (depending on weather conditions) will commence in the spring.

The Columbarium Committee; Doug Haugland - Vice Chair, Jerry Jensen - Treasurer, Renee Johnson - Secretary, Tom Young & Jeanne Moffat, and Bob Becker - chair



Heritage Group is Hosting A “Name Those People Party”



We need help identifying people and events in the many pictures that have been taken over the years. You are invited to test your memory on Sunday, October 11 and Sunday, October 18. We will be in the Gathering Corner before and after both services. A variety of different photos will be displayed each Sunday. Come join us!

Winter is Coming—Coats are Needed

The weather is changing and it is time to think about children and their need for warm jackets. Each year, the Benevolence Committee purchases jackets for elementary, middle school and high school students, and this year we are inviting you to partner with us in this endeavor. If you would like to purchase a jacket in kids sizes M, L or XL to donate to one of our schools, please do so and bring them to the office prior to Oct 13. We have often found best prices at Costco, Sams, and Walmart. If you are an online shopper, Amazon is always a useful source!



Trunk & Treat

It's almost time for the annual St. Philip's Trunk & Treat event. We will again host a safe trick or treat experience right here at the church for our members and neighbors to enjoy. The event will be held in the west parking lot on Saturday, October 31 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm!

You are invited to join in the fun by signing up to decorate the trunks of your cars and the tailgates of your trucks in Halloween fashion! Kids and their families will walk the large oval of decorated vehicles, as they safely trick or treat the night away! We would love to have you join us by decorating your "trunk" or donating a bag or two of individually wrapped candy for the event. All children and families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

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

Cori Olsrud

Ed Simko

Thank you for your support!

Life Events



Arthur and Bonnie DeMeyere on 10/8/1960 for 66 years

Richard and Bette Blair on 10/20/1962 for 64 years

Larry and Phyllis Ehlers on 10/28/1962 for 64 years

Duane and Arlene Retzer on 10/23/1971 for 55 years

Greg and Claudia Potasek on 10/18/1975 for 51 years

Lonnie and Marsha LeClair on 10/9/1976 for 50 years

George and Cheryl Mills on 10/8/1977 for 49 years

Mark and Tamara Zroka on 10/21/1978 for 48 years

Michael and Kristy Dettle on 10/25/1986 for 40 years

Jack and Michelle Angerhofer on 10/7/1989 for 37 years

Don and Jan Nelson on 10/14/1989 for 37 years

Gregory and Wendy Hundt on 10/7/1995 for 31 years

Sarah and Jade Mathre on 10/6/2020 for 6 years

Tonya and Jennifer Starken on 10/4/2023 for 3 years



The friends and family of:

Camilla Mueller

Tuni Turner

Friendly Takeaway

The **O** in October is

🍁 **O**verflowing joy in God's presence.

Psalm 16:11

🍁 **O**pen doors through prayer.

Matthew 7:7

🍁 **O**vercoming fear by God's perfect love.

1 John 4:18

🍁 **O**bedience that leads to blessing.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

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Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

CheriS@splcmn.org

Curt Morales, Sanctuary Choir Director

CurtM@splcmn.org

Peder Flaten, Organist

PederF@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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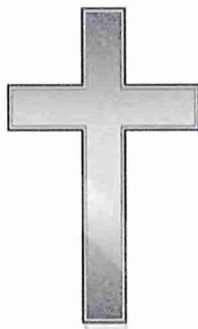
October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	2 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	3
4 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Rooted Sundays 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm New Member Class	5 1:00 pm Joy Circle	6 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 6:00 pm Endowment Committee Mtg. 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 6:00 pm Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:45 pm Rooted Wednesdays; Adult Discipleship 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	9 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	10 6:00 pm Youth Retreat/ Lock-in
11 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Rooted Sundays 10:00 am Heritage Group Photo Party; Cinnamon Roll Sale 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Heritage Group Photo Party	12 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries	13 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 2:00 pm Benevolence Mtg.; Heritage Group 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 6:00 pm Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:45 pm Rooted Wednesdays; Adult Discipleship 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	15 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	16 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	17
18 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Rooted Sundays 10:00 am Heritage Group Photo Party 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Heritage Group Photo Party	19 Friend Articles Due 10:00 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg.	20 9:00 am Library Group 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal; 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 6:00 pm Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:45 pm Rooted Wednesdays; Adult Discipleship 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	22 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	23 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	24 4:00 pm Joyann Parker Trio Concert
25 Reformation Sunday 9:00 am Worship 9:15 am Rooted Sundays 10:30 am Worship	26 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 6:30 pm BOA Mtg.	27 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 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 6:00 pm Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:45 pm Rooted Wednesdays; Adult Discipleship 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	29 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	30 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	31 Happy Halloween! 5:30 pm Trunk & Treat



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).