The Friend



Sunday Worship
November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
9:00 am and 10:30 am

Wednesday Worship
November 4, 11, 18
6:00 pm

Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 25
6:00 pm

November 2026

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Abundant Grace-Abundant Giving

Matt Flom, Pastor

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

2 Corinthians 8:9

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. Our annual fall stewardship appeal is coming up. This year's theme is Abundant Grace - Abundant Giving: We give because we have first received. We have three areas of emphasis this year that will help the congregation grow in both discipleship and attendance. We will be focusing on rightsizing our staff to meet our mission needs, receiving new members, and our new software package.

We recently brought on Rita Schwieters as our Director of Membership & Connections. She is leading our ministry to visitors, the new member process, and getting people connected in the congregation. It's an important ministry as more and more visitors come to St. Philip's. Our congregation is growing in numbers, but we also want it to grow in faith and discipleship.

We are also bringing on a new multipurpose software package. In the past, we have used different software for membership and finance; our app and online giving; and for our website. With our new software, Ministry Brands, all these functions will be brought under one unifying source. The sticker price is higher, but we will save in the long run through efficiency and functionality. We will have videos and temple talks to help us transition to the new online and app giving.

We are not asking for a big increase this year, by only 2-3%. This will help us to continue to serve and grow God's kingdom. We are truly grateful for your generosity in Time, Talent, and Treasure. What you give makes our ministry together possible. May God continue to bless you and keep you well.

God's Peace,

Pr. Matt

The Gift of Walking Together

Connie Yerigan, Director of Faith Formation

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15

Happy Fall, y'all!

As we move into this season of thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on just how much there is to be grateful for. I have said it before...I am so incredibly thankful for the call to serve here at St. Philip's. The relationships, the laughter, the opportunities to learn and grow together in faith, and the ways we show up for one another are all reminders of what a blessing this community truly is.

Our new Rooted ministry is off to a wonderful start! Wednesday evenings have been going well, and we recently enjoyed our first intergenerational gathering, where we explored different ways of praying together. We plan to gather all ages once a month, and in November, we'll focus on gratitude through conversation and a service project. Whether on Sundays or Wednesdays, I am reminded that faith formation is about so much more than what we learn. It's about the connections we make and the ways we experience God's love through one another.

We recently celebrated Bible Presentation Sunday, and our children are looking ahead to the Christmas pageant! Our youth have also been busy with a fun-filled lock-in, sunrise devotion, and a successful cinnamon roll fundraiser for their summer mission trip. I am so grateful for the many ways our congregation supports our young disciples!

The words from Romans remind us that we are called to share in one another's lives, celebrating the joys and sitting together in sorrow. As we approach the holidays, I know this season brings joy for some and heartache for others. For many of us, it's a little of both. There is room for all of it, and what a gift it is to belong to a community where we don't have to walk through any of it alone.

This season, I encourage you to notice the little moments of grace around you; a familiar smile, a conversation over a Wednesday meal, or someone simply showing up when you need them most. Sometimes those little things remind us of how much we have to be thankful for.

Blessings to you,

Connie

Building Together in Love

Rita Schwieters, Director of Membership & Connections

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:15-16

In October St. Philip's welcomed 5 new households into our congregation. On new member Sunday we formally recognize all who have joined. We also give gift bags to each adult and child. New Members are now offered a study Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, and a few other small items (a coffee mug and key chain for adults ,and some quiet toys for kids). Many of the St. Philip's branded items are lovingly made, in house, by our own Ms. Connie who loves a good craft. We hope our new members feel the loving welcome in these gifts. Once a guest starts coming a little more regularly, it's important we help them find their place.

Our many ministries are where that magic happens. If you are the main contact for a ministry group, you should have received an email from me confirming contact information. If you have not received that message, please reach out to me so we can get in contact. I will be using this list to communicate with ministries about opportunities to showcase your group. If you are a member who is not connected and feel something is missing, there is a ministry that is missing you. And if your group has a gap where you need someone, you can trust that God doesn't work in vain. He will send someone to complete any mission he has ordained for you. Start looking for the one God is sending. In Ephesians 4, Paul says, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." By working together for the good of God's Kingdom, we will, "grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." The job isn't over when someone checks the membership box or completes confirmation. The job is lifelong to build up the congregation in love as each part does its work. And I, for one, am always excited to see what work each of us does.

Thanksgiving!

Brian Munsterman, President

Is it November already? Time for all things Fall – leaves changing colors, cooling air, brisk morning air, and some football! There is also the turkey dinner at the end of the month. Regardless of how you spend your time, please take some time to enjoy it.

I am stealing the following that I wrote last year because it still very much resonates with me, and I hope it does with you as well. November always reminds me to be thankful, especially because we celebrate Thanksgiving this month. I try to practice gratitude every day for what I have. I am thankful for the friends and family in my life, a roof over my head, and a job which allows me to be able to pay for what is needed along with a few other luxuries in life. I am also thankful that I can use some of my talents to help others while belonging and being part of something greater here at St Philip's. It was great to see many bibles handed out to the kids last month and to witness my son affirm his faith in God during his confirmation. There are many wonderful things that our congregation continues to do to help those who are need in our community, and I am very thankful. Please remember those as we go into the upcoming holiday season and help where you can.

I do want to say that I am a little nervous about where our finances currently sit this year. At the end of September, we spent $40,853 more than what we brought in. We have been watching all expenses all year long and we still do not have a part-time pastor. We as a congregation need to make sure that we are meeting what is needed. We have the final two months to come up with what is needed. I am always confident in what our congregation does and how we always step up and meet that challenge. As our stewardship campaign begins, please pray, and consider our blessings and what we could be doing and giving for our own church. I hope and pray that everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

BOA Meeting Summary



* We discussed needed revisions for the Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy to be submitted to the synod.

* We approved distribution of funds from the Garage Sale, including requests by Pastor Matt for the Good Samaritan Fund and Book Study Fund. In anticipation of a costly needed repair to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall roofs, a significant amount was approved to be applied to the Building For The Future III fund to be created.

* New carpet will be installed in the Sanctuary as soon as the contractor receives the materials.

* Aaron gave a brief update from the Nominating Committee on positions that will need to be filled. We're grateful for the service of the volunteers from our congregation.

Reverse Advent Calendar - Food & Clothing Shelf

Another September has passed which means the Food & Clothing Shelf has been feeding the hungry and clothing those in need for over nine years. Tuesdays and Fridays we also do blood pressure screenings which fits well with our ministry of caring for our neighbors. Visitors are always impressed at the quality and wide section of food and clothing they are welcome to choose from and are amazed that all this is supported by this congregation. Thanks goes out to all of you for your continued support. We couldn't sustain this ministry without you. For those that haven't supported this ministry we welcome you to consider adopting the following Advent Calendar in support of this ministry. Each day, add a dollar to a clean, empty food jar or can. On Christmas Eve, bring your donation to one of the St. Philip's church services.

December 1	$1.00	December 13	$1.00
December 2	$1.00	December 14	$1.00
December 3	$1.00	December 15	$1.00
December 4	$1.00	December 16	$1.00
December 5	$1.00	December 17	$1.00
December 6	$1.00	December 18	$1.00
December 7	$1.00	December 19	$1.00
December 8	$1.00	December 20	$1.00
December 9	$1.00	December 21	$1.00
December 10	$1.00	December 22	$1.00
December 11	$1.00	December 23	$1.00
December 12	$1.00	December 24	$1.00



(Average cost of 2 bags at St. Philip's Food & Clothing Shelf = $26.00)

Financials

St. Philip's 2026	Actual September	Actual YTD
Income	$48,248.67	$516,688.42
Expense	($59,728.30)	($557,541.55)
Total	($11,479.63)	($40,853.13)

Fall Trip to Milwaukee - St. Philip's Disaster Relief

A third St. Philip's Disaster Relief (SPDR) team was back in Milwaukee last month helping out in two homes that were flooded during heavy rainfall back in August, 2025. The homes were next door to each other, a first for SPDR, which made things at lot easier in terms of vehicles, tools, and work coordination.

The first home needed the flooring replaced throughout. The family was living there which meant a lot of moving furniture, mostly by them, every day. The SPDR team members removed the base trim and then installed luxury vinyl planking in the whole house (except the bathroom) – three bedrooms, hallway, utility room, kitchen, living room, dining room, and family room. They also installed transition pieces in the doorways and new baseboard and other trim throughout the home and even had some time to do some touchup painting and cleaning. It was great to finish the assigned work and to know that the rebuilding for this family was complete.

It was a different story in the other house. It had been stripped down to the bare studs – no drywall on the ceiling or walls, no insulation, no flooring, old wiring, no light fixtures, etc. It was dismal looking and the homeowner had been couch-surfing for 14 months. The team's work there was varied. Some team members removed all of the old wiring, light fixtures, outlets, and switches and then added new wiring and boxes to bring everything up to code. Other team members insulated the ceiling and walls. And others worked on framing up new walls. It was crowded at times but a lot was accomplished. As much of the wiring as possible was completed. (A licensed electrician was contracted to complete the rest.) The moving/framing of walls was completed which meant the homeowner now has a larger bathroom and the closets she wants. The insulating was completed and a few sheets of drywall were installed. The home looked much different in just five days, but still needed a lot of work.

On a brighter note, a large team from Illinois was in Milwaukee the following week and installed the rest of the drywall, did a majority of the taping and mudding, and even did some painting. Pictures of their work were sent to SPDR and it was great to see that the house is now closer to being a home!

Thank you to the Milwaukee team members, all of the SPDR supporters, and Calvary Lutheran Church in Brookfield for providing the team with lodging, snacks and several meals. A return trip to Milwaukee is a possibility. The journey continues...

October - Meals on Wheels

On a beautiful bright fall week in October, our very special volunteers brought a yummy meal to Meals on Wheels recipients. Not only is the meal important, but interaction and smiles help them have a better day. A big hug and thank you to all our volunteers: Mike & Renee Youngberg, Cathy Challman, Chuck & Kathy Eichelberger, Olga Palmer, Mary Palmer, Dave & Shirley Hogan, Jerry & Carole Jensen, Larry & Phyllis Ehlers, Monica Anderson, Eldy & Sandy Nelson, Mike & Deb Carroll, Richard & Dawn Young.

Holidays - Benevolence Committee

November is a busy month for the Benevolence Committee. We will be collecting donations for our Thanksgiving gift cards and for our Christmas Shoppe. This year, we are partnering with Hayes and North Park Elementary Schools to help families in need with gift cards for Thanksgiving. We will help 50 families, and monetary denominations will vary with the size of the family. Tags will be located in the Mission Corner from November 1 - 15. Please purchase a Walmart gift card in the denomination of your choice and put it into the card box located on the wall in the Mission Corner by November 15.

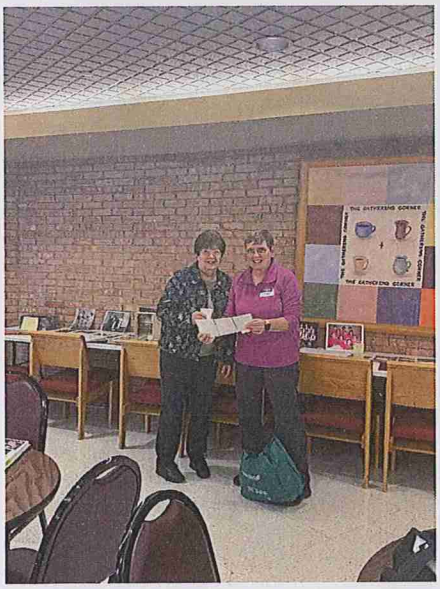
Our Christmas Shoppe is early this year, December 5, so we need gifts earlier. The Giving Trees will be up on Wednesday, November 18, and please return any donated gifts December 2. We know how expensive things are getting and everyone is feeling the effects of higher prices. Consider pooling your money with your book club, group, committee, and circle friends to stretch that dollar!

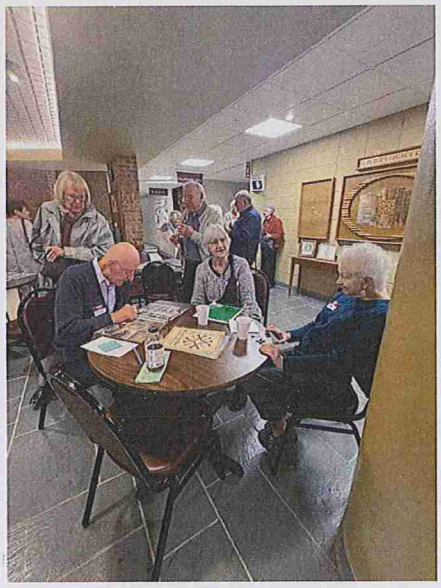
We appreciate your support, and so do the families we are helping!

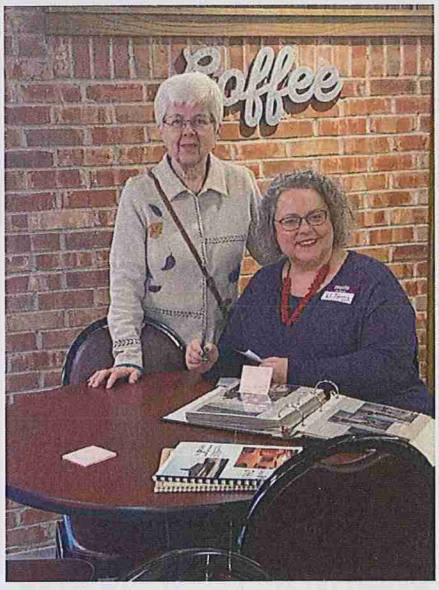
Name Those People Party -Heritage Group

Well, our 'Name Those People Party' the last two Sundays was busy, fun, and successful. The Heritage Group cannot thank you enough for participating. Some of you knew lots of the kids, while others were focused on choir pictures. Some were in teams to work together getting first and last names or the activity. One person burst into song! We still have many hours of work, so don't be surprised if we invite you to another party!

Also in the wings are all the pictures in slides that need identifying. We know we will bribe you with popcorn and pop to help us when the time is right. In the meantime, look for our bulletin board to take a new twist with, guess what?.....Pictures!







Fall News from the Library

Cooler weather, changing colors of leaves, and the urge to cozy up to the fire with a good book. Doesn't that sound great? St. Philip's Library is working hard to make it happen. New books will be coming later in the fall. In the meantime, the volunteer Library staff would like to draw your attention to some books we are calling "Golden Oldies." These are older titles still loved.

Look for these choices.

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay. Mystery, intrigue and suspense is what this novel offers. It starts in Paris during World War II and takes the reader sixty years into the future.

Always Looking Up an autobiography by Michael J. Fox. Actor, husband, father, activist. Now he is Mike with Parkinson's disease.

The Day the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede. That day was 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland. This is the story of the smash hit musical, Come from Away, the tragic event just twenty-five years ago.

Teacher Man by Frank McCourt. The author became a star when he published Angela's Ashes, the Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir of his childhood in Limerick, Ireland. This book tells of his 30-year career as a teacher and how it propelled him into being a writer.

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai. She is the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban. She refused to stop her education and paid the price. Coming soon is the second chapter of her life—Finding My Way.

Let's Roll! By Lisa Beamer, wife of the 9-11 hero Todd Beamer. This quiet couple from New Jersey and United Flight 93. The tragic story we all know again from 25 years ago.

Hardly a Silent Night by Harold Kurtz. This is a fictional version of growing up in a parsonage in midwestern rural Wisconsin.

Please note: The St.Philip's Library operates on the honor system. We appreciate it when books are returned so that other readers may enjoy too. Please take a moment to look around your house for forgotten books, and then return them. We promise not to scold or fine, just a smile of thanks. Or return them when no one is in the Library, either way we would simply appreciate having the books back. Books are expensive. If you would like to donate a book or two, we would be happy to accept new or gently used. Give in honor or memory of someone or some occasion. We'll even put an announcement in the front of the book marking your donation!



Life Events



Vincent and Janet Lanners on 11/22/1958 for 68 years

Ronald and Karla Ackerman on 11/26/1966 for 60 years

Gerald and Virginia Olson on 11/30/1968 for 58 years

Charles and Janet Scovill on 11/29/1969 for 57 years

Roger and Ellen Musolf on 11/25/1978 for 48 years

William and Michelle Hatten on 11/28/1998 for 28 years

Jacob and Courtney Sponsel on 11/7/2009 for 17 years

Jorge and Kellie Bernal on 11/6/2010 for 16 years

Mitchell and Kelly Boeder on 11/16/2019 for 7 years

Megan and Jonathan Simmons on 11/2/2019 for 7 years



~ Cathy Thunberg

~ Joni Brockway ~ Sarah Brockway

~ Megan Simmons and son Jordan

~ Penny Thompson and children – Azalea, Mat, Caspian, and Lily

Endowment Fund

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

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

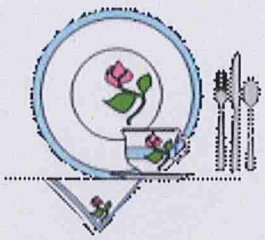
Gifts were received in memory and honor of

Jacqueline Berg

Ed Simko

Thank you for your support!

Festival of Tables!



Save the Date! Good news, the date has been set. The 2027 Festival of Tables will be held on April 17, 2027. Our entertainment will feature Dan Chouinard, a well-known pianist/performer in the Twins cities area. More details are coming soon. Mark your calendars! Also, consider decorating a table for this beautiful event. If you have questions, contact Julie Small [kjsmall74@msn.com].

The Festival of Tables is a fundraiser for the St. Philip's Food & Clothing Shelf and the Wednesday Night Community Suppers.

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

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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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November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **Daylight Saving Ends** **All Saints Sunday** **9:00 am** Worship **9:15 am** Rooted Sundays **9:45 am** Endowment Brunch **10:30 am** Worship	2 **1:00 pm** Joy Circle	3 **Election Day** **10:00 am** Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together **6:30 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal	4 **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	5 **8:30 am** Men's Book Discussion **7:30 pm** AA Mtg	6 **10:00 am** Food & Clothing Shelf	7
8 **9:00 am** Worship **9:15 am** Rooted Sundays **10:30 am** Worship	9 **10:00 am** Parish Fellowship Mtg. **1:00 pm** Global Health Ministries	10 **10:00 am** Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together **2:00 pm** Benevolence Mtg.; Heritage Group Mtg. **6:30 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal	11 **Veterans Day** **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; Bells of Praise Rehearsal **6:45 pm** Rooted Wednesdays; Adult Discipleship **7:00 pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	12 **7:30 pm** AA Mtg.	13 **10:00 am** Food & Clothing Shelf	14
15 **9:00 am** Worship **9:15 am** Rooted Sundays **10:30 am** Worship	16 **Friend Articles Due** **10:00 am** Glory Circle **6:30 pm** Executive Mtg.	17 **9:00 am** Library Group **10:00 am** Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together **6:30 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal; This is Most Certainly Brew	18 **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; Bells of Praise Rehearsal **6:45 pm** Rooted Wednesdays; Adult Discipleship; Mission Trip Mtg. **7:00 pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	19 **8:30 am** Men's Book Discussion **12:00 pm** Book Club **7:30 pm** AA Mtg.	20 **10:00 am** Food & Clothing Shelf **6:00 pm** Fall Youth Night	21
22 **9:00 am** Worship **9:15 am** Rooted Sundays **10:30 am** Worship	23 **1:00 pm** Global Health Ministries; Knitters & Crocheters **6:30 pm** BOA Mtg.	24 **10:00 am** Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together **6:30 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal	25 **8:30 am** Men's Work Crew; WOW **10:00 am** EA Mtg. **5:00 pm** Food & Clothing Shelf **5:15 pm** Community Supper Thanksgiving **6:00 pm** Thanksgiving Eve Worship **6:30 pm** Bells of Praise Rehearsal - Cancelled **6:45 pm** Rooted Wednesdays; Adult Discipleship **7:00 pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	26 **Happy Thanksgiving!** **Office Closed** **7:30 pm** AA Mtg.	27 **10:00 am** Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed	28
29 **9:00 am** Worship **9:15 am** Rooted Sundays **10:30 am** Worship	30					

St. Philip's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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).