The Friend

Advent Worship
December 2, 9, 16 @ 12:00 and 6:00 pm
Blue Christmas: December 23 @ 12:00 and 6:00 pm

Pageant & Youth Holiday Market
December 6

Concert
December 13 @ 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship
2:00 pm - Puppet Show
4:00 pm - Worship Band, Candles, and Carols
10:00 pm - Organ and Candles

Christmas Day
10:30 am - Traditional Christmas Worship



December 2026

Welcome	1	Thank you - Thanksgiving	7
Pastor Matt's Column	2	Upcoming Events	7
Director of Faith Formation	3	Christmas Story	8
Director of Membership & Connections	4	Life Events	9
President's Column	4	Endowment Fund	9
BOA Summary	5	Friendly Takeaway	10
Notes from the Food Shelf	5	Contact Info	10
Greetings from Sekenwa Briska	5	December Calendar	11
Financials	5	Mission & Vision	12
SPDR	6		

Advent, Matt Flom, Pastor

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ~Luke 1:46-47

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This Advent season, our Wednesday noon and evening services invite us into a three-part sermon series centered on three of the most profound songs in Scripture—the canticles found in the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel. These ancient songs, sung by ordinary people whose lives were interrupted by God's extraordinary grace, will guide us as we wait, watch, and prepare for the coming of Christ. We will listen and sing Mary's Song (the Magnificat), Zechariah's Song (the Benedictus), and Simeon's Song (the Nunc Dimittis), discovering how each one shapes Advent hope.

Advent is a season of holy waiting. We remember the long centuries of expectation that preceded Christ's first coming, and we live in the tension of longing for His return. The songs of Luke's nativity narrative give voice to that waiting. They are not sentimental carols; they are Spirit-inspired proclamations of God's faithfulness, justice, and salvation. By dwelling with these three canticles, we learn to sing Advent truth in our own time.

December 2nd: Mary's Song – The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

Mary, a young woman of no social standing, responds to the angel's announcement with a song of revolutionary joy. "My soul magnifies the Lord," she begins, and then unfolds a vision of a God who scatters the proud, brings down the powerful, and lifts up the lowly. The Magnificat teaches us that Advent begins with humility and ends in praise. God's kingdom turns the world's values upside down. As we enter the season, Mary's song invites us to examine where we place our trust and to celebrate the God who notices the overlooked and fills the hungry with good things. Her song is both personal and prophetic—a model for how ordinary believers can proclaim extraordinary hope.

Week Two: Zechariah's Song – The Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79)

After months of silence, the priest Zechariah opens his mouth and blesses God. His song, the Benedictus, looks both backward and forward. He praises the God of Israel who has "visited and redeemed his people" and raised up a horn of salvation. Then he turns to the newborn John and declares that this child will prepare the way, giving "knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins." The Benedictus is a song of light breaking into darkness. In a world still shadowed by fear and division, Zechariah reminds us that God's tender mercy rises like the dawn. This midweek service will help us recover Advent as a season of repentance and readiness—preparing the way for the Lord in our own hearts and communities.

Week Three: Simeon's Song – The Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:25-32)

Finally, we meet Simeon, an elderly man who has waited a lifetime for "the consolation of Israel." Taking the infant Jesus in his arms, he sings the Nunc Dimittis: "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace... for my eyes have seen your salvation." Simeon's song is one of peaceful release and expansive vision. Salvation is not only for Israel; it is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." In this closing service we will consider what it means to finish well, to hold Christ close, and to send the light of the gospel outward. Simeon teaches us that true Advent waiting ends not in anxiety but in peace.

Together these three songs form a beautiful progression: Mary's radical joy, Zechariah's prophetic hope, and Simeon's quiet fulfillment. They move us from the announcement of God's favor, through the call to prepare the way, to the deep rest that comes when we finally see God's salvation with our own eyes.

We hope you will join us each Wednesday of Advent as we listen, reflect, and learn to sing these ancient songs anew. May the Magnificat, Benedictus, and Nunc Dimittis tune our hearts to the true music of the season—the coming of Christ our Lord.

God's Peace, Pr. Matt

Worth the Wait: A Season of Hope and New Beginnings

Connie Yerigan, Director of Faith Formation

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles. Isaiah 40:31

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

This is the season of all things that glitter and sparkle. A season of generosity, kindness, and gathering with friends and family as we prepare our hearts for the birth of that precious baby boy who was sent to save us. Advent is a season filled with waiting, anticipation, and hope. Jesus was sent for us, bringing a promise of love and peace. So, we wait.
I have always loved this time of the year, although I will be the first to admit that waiting has never been one of my strengths! Over the years, I have learned to look at waiting differently. Life is short, and we spend so much of it rushing from one thing to the next. Sometimes we forget to slow down and appreciate what is happening right in front of us. Some of the most beautiful things in life are worth the wait.

One thing I am excitedly waiting for is our children's Christmas pageant, "From the Roots of Jesse to the Manger," on Sunday, December 6, during our 9:00 am worship service! Our children, youth, and even some adults, are preparing to share the story of Jesus' birth. There is something so special about experiencing the Christmas story through the eyes of children.
That same morning, we will also have our Youth Holiday Market! Stop by and browse the wonderful baked goods, gifts, and treasures. You might just find that perfect gift for someone special! Proceeds help support the youth attending the summer mission trip. Thank you to everyone who helps make this special tradition possible!

Speaking of waiting and anticipation, I am so excited for what is to come in the new year at St. Philip's! Something new is taking root, and I cannot wait to share more with you. I am looking forward to creating new opportunities for connection and community, including gatherings for young adults, opportunities for fellowship among those in their next chapters of life, and a welcoming space for those navigating grief and loss. Spaces where we can come together, share our stories, find comfort, and remind one another that we do not have to walk life's journeys alone.

There is so much to look forward to, and I am grateful to be part of a community where faith grows, relationships deepen, and God's love brings us together. So, wherever you find yourself waiting this Advent season, whether with excitement, uncertainty, joy, or even a little sadness, I pray you find hope in the waiting and remember that God is with us in every season.

Many blessings to you and your family during this season of waiting, hope, and love.

Blessings to you,
Connie

Connecting as Humble Teachers

Rita Schwieters, Director of Membership & Connections

Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8

I heard it said that all religions are man's attempt to climb a mountain and reach God. We learn all the ways to perfect ourselves so we can attain heaven and be in God's presence. But it's only in Christianity that God comes down the mountain and seeks us. December is a month where that really hits home. God came not just as a man, but as a helpless infant, subject to the wills of His parents and other adults in His life. Have you ever put yourself in a position where you were subject to the will of someone clearly beneath you? While reflecting on this, I remembered the time I let my young son brush my teeth. The usual power plays weren't working. Normally, I can raise my voice, bribe him, or threaten to ground him. I think that's pretty normal for us humans, we lean on our power to accomplish our goals. But Christ didn't do that. He did the opposite. He became a baby. He let his parents feed and diaper him, he let his friends prepare and eat supper with him, and he let his friends wash his body for burial. How can you humbly serve those God has put in your path? When you meet children, youth, or new converts, think about how God calls you to teach them. Maybe it's by telling them your stories, or maybe it's by becoming vulnerable and asking them to help you. Could you ask someone to pray with you? Could you pray for them and model how to do it? Could you ask them to do a project or job with you? In any case, I think it's a great idea to just be in fellowship across all spans of experience. We need each other for fellowship and growth in faith. So, if you're looking for a way to connect with people outside your usual crew, consider coming to an intergenerational night where we'll work on a project or skill and share stories. And whatever you do, choose humility.

Christmas Blessings

Brian Munsterman, President

"Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!" What a glorious time of year December is. While it is only November as I write this, I am really enjoying the moderate weather we are currently having and wouldn't mind if this continued all through winter, although, I do like having a white Christmas. I will be grateful for whatever we are provided. I really love this time of year for all that it brings! I like the traditions, including the new ones that have begun, all the beautiful lights, the decorations, the gathering of the family and the celebration of the birth of our Savior. Happy Birthday Jesus!

I look forward to so many things here at church during this month. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 6, for the Children, Youth & Family Program 2026 Christmas Pageant and their annual Holiday Market, Sunday, December 13 for the Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale in the morning and then the Christmas Concert in the afternoon. These are always so beautiful. I especially love the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

While this is such a joyous season for some, it can be just the exact opposite for others. Please reach out and help where you can to those in need or suffering, those that might just need an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on and help spread God's blessings. I hope everyone enjoys all that you hold dear during this wonderful season! Merry Christmas to all and may God bless everyone in the new year.

BOA Meeting Summary



- Brian gave a wonderful devotion on hope, joy, and giving.
- Pastor Matt will be meeting with our new synod representative next week and will hopefully have some new names of possible associate pastor candidates soon.
- The revisions Connie made to the Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Safety Policy look great. We discussed a couple additional revisions that are needed. Pr. Matt will give those to Connie so we can vote to approve the policy at the December meeting.

Notes from the Food & Clothing Shelf

As we approach the end of 2026 please consider year end gifts of gratitude. If you have expendable finances - first and foremost, contribute to St. Philip's General Budget to allow St. Philip's to sustain it's excellent work. Secondly, please consider a gift to the food shelf to help us sustain our dwindling finances of this important ministry as we look forward to our work in 2027.

Greetings from Sekenwa Briska and Family

The Rev. Associate Professor Sekenwa Moses Briska was recently honored for 8 years of service as Provost of Bronnum Lutheran seminary in Yola, Nigeria. There was also a celebration of the publication of his book, Praxis of Transformational Leadership and Contemporary Ecclesiology. He and his wife, Nuwayina and their 4 children worshiped with us during the years he was at Luther Seminary and Nuwayina studied community healthcare delivery.

He wishes us well and apologizes for his long silence. He shares that the Lord has been faithful to him and his family. Nuwayina has been doing a good job with her team, even more effectively than in the years past. Their children are all doing fine with their studies in various schools.

He asks for our prayers for himself, his family, and the Seminary.

The full transcript of his message is posted on the Global Missions bulletin board near the coffee corner.

Financials

St. Philip's 2026	Actual October	Actual YTD
Income	$63,463.65	$581,098.44
Expense	($64,457.05)	($621,998.60)
Total	($993.40)	($40,900.16)

Gathering/Trip - St. Philip's Disaster Relief

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE GATHERING

On October 19, Renee Johnson and Mike Carroll drove to Chicago to attend the annual "Community of Practice Gathering" hosted by Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR).

The LDR three-day event was attended by approximately 100 individuals from across the country that are involved in disaster response through the ELCA. The event facilitated fellowship, education, and networking opportunities.

Renee and Mike were able to make some contacts for future SPDR trips and came away with a couple of possibilities for the Spring 2027 trip. They also learned how to use an ELCA software tool, called LeadNet, to post what SPDR is doing and communicate with others regarding future SPDR rebuild opportunities. A couple weeks after the Gathering, they took part in a regional, quarterly LDR Zoom call that will help maintain those contacts.

We are thankful to LDR for allowing SPDR to attend the Gathering and grateful for the doors that have been opened to help the SPDR journey continue.

MILWAUKEE FALL TRIP – PART B

Just one day after returning from the SPDR Fall Trip to Milwaukee, the wheels were turning for a return trip to Milwaukee to continue the work on a home that had been flooded in August 2025.

On their way to Chicago, Renee and Mike stopped in Milwaukee to review the progress on this home to determine the scope of work for the return SPDR trip that was in the works. This allowed the Milwaukee Fall Trip – Part B team to have needed materials onsite, needed tools determined, work assignments ready, and more.

A team of nine spent four days in early November installing laminate flooring throughout the house, hanging interior and closet doors, trimming out windows and doors, installing temporary lighting, outlets and switches, and more. (A volunteer team from Illinois had done much of the drywall work between the two SPDR trips and have plans to return in November.)

It was great to be a major part of the progress in this home that had just stud walls, no lights, heat, or insulation, and a cement floor when SPDR first walked into the house at the end of September. We pray that the homeowner will be able to return to her home this year – after being displaced for over sixteen months.

A heartfelt thank you to Calvary Lutheran Church in Brookfield for again hosting the SPDR team and to the "Part B" team members – most who had been part of the "Part A" team.

Thank You! - Benevolence Committee

Thank you to all who donated gift cards for Thanksgiving and gifts for our Christmas Shoppe. We know we ask a lot at this time of year but hope to help as many as we are able to have wonderful holidays!

Upcoming Events

Christmas Shoppe
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!

Youth Holiday Market
Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 6 when our youth host their annual Holiday Market in the Mission Corner. They will be making items to sell and welcome donations too! Baked goods and any other handmade holiday gift ideas you may wish to donate are appreciated. Items should be dropped off by Wednesday, December 2. Please contact our Director of Faith Formation, Connie with questions [ConnieY@splcmn.org].

Annual Christmas Pageant!
Did you know the Christmas story began long before the manger in Bethlehem? Join us on Sunday, December 6, during our 9:00 am worship service as our Children, Youth & Family Ministry presents, "From the Roots of Jesse to the Manger"! Together, we'll journey through generations of God's promises, discovering how the story of Christmas is rooted in God's love and faithfulness...and how that story continues through us today! Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this special celebration of faith, hope, and God's love woven through generations!

Christmas Concert
Join us for a beautiful musical illustration of Christmas on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 pm. Come and listen to the sounds of the Sanctuary Choir, Bells of Praise, Worship Band, Organ, and more! Afterward, enjoy refreshments in the Gathering Corner, provided by the Parish Fellowship Committee. It is sure to be a great evening filled with joy and merriment of the season!



The Christmas Story

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, 19 and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Luke 2:1-20



Life Events



Mary and Ray Kukowski on 12/4/1965 for 61 years

Douglas and Miriam Haugland on 12/21/1974 for 52 years



Henry Michael Young

11/8/2026

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

Camila Mueller

Thank you for your support!

Friendly Takeaway

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Church Staff

Pastor Matt Flom, Pastor
MattF@splcmn.org, 763-231-0557

Pastor Heidi Zimdars, Visitation Pastor
HeidiZ@splcmn.org 612-799-1232

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

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

Board of Administration
BOA@splcmn.org

Brian Munsterman, President
bmunsterman@comcast.net

Aaron Gondorchin, Vice-President
zebular@gmail.com

Kari Davies, Secretary
Karidavies73@gmail.com

Greg Rosholt, Treasurer
gsrosholt@comcast.net

Connie Bernardy
conniebernardy@gmail.com

Dan Eittreim
dane@bsscinema.com

Danielle Herrera-Markwald
daniella4207@hotmail.com

Piklu Roy
pikluroy84@gmail.com

Mike Youngberg
zubazwizard@gmail.com

December 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 **10:00 am** Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together **6:30 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal	2 **8:30 am** Men's Work Crew **9:00 am** Quilters **10:00 am** EA Mtg. **12:00 pm** Advent Worship **5:00 pm** Food & Clothing Shelf **5:15 pm** Community Supper **6:00 pm** Advent Worship; Bells of Praise Rehearsal; Adult Discipleship **7:00 pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	3 **8:30 am** Men's Book Discussion **7:30 pm** AA Mtg	4 **10:00 am** Food & Clothing Shelf	5 **10:00 am** Christmas Shoppe; Pageant rehearsal
6 **9:00 am** Worship - Pageant **9:15 am** No Rooted Sundays **10:00 am** Holiday Market **10:30 am** Worship	7 **1:00 pm** Joy Circle	8 **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	9 **8:30 am** Men's Work Crew; WOW **10:00 am** EA Mtg.; Women's Book Club **12:00 pm** Advent Worship **1:00 pm** Walking Alone Together potluck and mtg. **5:00 pm** Food & Clothing Shelf **5:15 pm** Community Supper **6:00 pm** Advent Worship; Bells of Praise Rehearsal; Adult Discipleship **7:00 pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	10 **7:30 pm** AA Mtg.	11 **10:00 am** Food & Clothing Shelf	12
13 **9:00 am** Worship **10:30 am** Worship **4:00 pm** Christmas Concert	14 **10:00 am** Parish Fellowship Mtg. **1:00 pm** Global Health Ministries	15 **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	16 **8:30 am** Men's Work Crew **9:00 am** Quilters **10:00 am** EA Mtg. **10:30 am** P&G Mtg. **12:00 pm** Advent Worship **5:00 pm** Food & Clothing Shelf **5:15 pm** Community Supper **6:00 pm** Advent Worship; Adult Discipleship **7:00 pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	17 **8:30 am** Men's Book Discussion **7:30 pm** AA Mtg.	18 **10:00 am** Food & Clothing Shelf	19
20 **9:00 am** Worship **10:30 am** Worship	21 **Friend Articles Due** **10:00 am** No Glory Circle **6:30 pm** Executive Mtg.	22 **10:00 am** Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together - Cancelled **6:30 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal	23 **8:30 am** Men's Work Crew; WOW **10:00 am** EA Mtg. **12:00 pm** Blue Christmas Worship **5:00 pm** Food & Clothing Shelf **5:15 pm** Community Supper **6:00 pm** Blue Christmas Worship; Adult Discipleship **7:00 pm** Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	24 **Christmas Eve** **2:00 pm** Christmas Eve Worship **4:00 pm** Christmas Eve Worship **7:30 pm** AA Mtg. **10:00 pm** Christmas Eve Worship	25 **Merry Christmas!** **Office Closed** **10:00 am** Food & Clothing Shelf - Closed **10:30 am** Christmas Day Worship	26
27 **9:00 am** Worship **10:30 am** Worship	28 **Office Closed** **1:00 pm** Global Health Ministries; Knitters & Crocheters **6:30 pm** BOA Mtg.	29 **10:00 am** Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together - Cancelled **6:30 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal	30 **8:30 am** Men's Work Crew **10:00 am** EA Mtg. **5:00 pm** Food & Clothing Shelf **5:15 pm** Community Supper **6:00 pm** Adult Discipleship	31 **New Year's Eve** **8:30 am** Men's Book Discussion **7:30 pm** AA Mtg.		

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).