



St. Philip Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our Hands.

Issue 6: Advent | Christmas 2016



St. Philip Spirit



St. Philip Life

RAISE THE ROOF—50th Anniversary Capital Campaign

God is working in our midst. This we know for certain.

God has been working here for nearly 50 years.

And God is here to work through the faithful gathered for the next 50 years.

We are committed to sharing God's love with the world

in whatever ways God calls us.

Just a few weeks ago, we updated the congregation about the council's discernment regarding the current state of the facility and the progress made on dreaming about uses for the generous grant we received this year.

Most notably, we talked about our need to raise between \$60k-\$120k for deferred maintenance, which cannot be covered by the intentions of the grant, but would also activate that \$200k grant to further our mission in this place.

In these short few weeks we have received a generous matching gift of up to \$60k which is coming to a conclusion this month, as well as over 85% of that goal! God is good! We hope to meet our goal of \$120k by the end of this

month, which was only a dream about 2 months ago.

If you've given already, *thank you - from the bottom of our hearts.*

If you haven't been able to contribute yet, we hope that you will continue to pray about whether or not you are able so that this might be a place of healing and wholeness.

Every dollar helps us achieve the goal and at this point, your gift will be matched.

This year I received a letter from someone who has been attending St. Philip through AA for the past 30 years and I shared it recently in a sermon. I think it speaks to the importance of keeping this place well maintained, safe, and hospitable. I could not have put it in better words myself.



To the Pastor and congregation of St. Philip Church

To my brothers and sisters in Christ, hello,

Although I am not a member of your congregation, I have been attending your church for over 30 years. Although I am not a Lutheran, I have prayed to our God in your building for almost half my life. I have certainly committed my share of sins, but I have found a great measure of comfort, forgiveness, and healing within the walls of St. Philip.

My name is Phil and I am an alcoholic.

I first stepped into your church in March of 1986 to attend an AA meeting and I have been coming back ever since. Hosting AA meetings can sometimes be an imposition on a church and its congregation and alcoholics can occasionally be trying guests: perhaps leaving an untidy kitchen, not putting chairs back where they belong, and even occasionally forgetting to lock the door when



we leave. Your tolerance and understanding for these infrequent lapses is greatly appreciated. Because we are usually not members of the congregation, most churches, when they do accommodate Alcoholics Anonymous, may have a meeting or two a week. But not St. Philip. For as long as I have been coming here, your church has graciously hosted over a dozen AA meetings a week. This is as astonishing as it is heartwarming and it is a testament to the strong and compassionate faith that is alive in the people who attend this church. I know of no other church that does this.

A church is not just a building - it is a statement of faith and a place where people can meet God. I have seen many, many people who have done just that in the AA meetings at St. Philip. I have seen people, myself included, who were broken by addiction and in desperate need, open their eyes, their hearts, and their lives to a loving and redeeming God. I have seen them restored to their families and to society and to themselves. Even in those cases for whom the power of addiction was too great and who relapsed, I believe they still found a measure of peace and hope at the meetings at St. Philip even if it was only for a short while.

For many Christians, salvation is a future thing - we have hope that when we die we will fully enter into God's kingdom. For alcoholics, salvation is a daily occurrence; our daily bread is the freedom to not drink or take drugs. Our program says that: provided we maintain some level of contact with our God, can trust that He will manage our addiction where we are powerless over it, and we turn our lives over to Him, we will gain a day's worth of relief from the pain and suffering our condition causes to us and those around us. Regular attendance at AA meetings is a key part of this program and you should be justifiably proud of how your church has contributed to God's work in this over the years.

I will shortly be leaving the area for good and will no longer be able to attend meetings at St. Philip as I have for over three decades. This will be a great loss for me. But I am certain that your work will continue for my fellow AAs and those who come after. I was prompted to write this letter to share with you the role your church has had in my life and to sincerely thank you and the congregation for this great gift you have given me.

I pray that God's hand and blessing be upon the good people of St. Philip's.

In the spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous, I sign myself.

Phil

Dear people, this is one of the main reasons why we are fixing our roof and updating our facility

so that we can continue to affect so many lives in our community,

so that we can continue to be a house for all peoples,

so that God can work in this place for healing, wholeness, and life,

so that all will come to know God's love.





Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Glenview/Northbrook Youth Services: Holiday Gift Program

Every year St. Philip has the privilege to make a family's Christmas by donating items on their wish list. Glenview/Northbrook Youth Services provide us with a list of families and their wish lists for us to go shopping. Please see Elaine Bilowich for wish lists and more information. Gifts are due to church by Dec. 4, labeled with first name and family number, UNWRAPPED.



Jewel Gift Card Program

Open Arms Food Pantry (formerly Elijah's Pantry) will be giving out Jewel Gift Cards to low income families again this year. Please see Pam Blackstone for more information about donating gift cards or cash to buy gift cards.



Northfield Township Food Pantry

*"The Northfield Township Food Pantry was started close to 50 years ago to assist Township residents who are unable to provide enough food for themselves and their families. No tax dollars are used to supply the Pantry. The Pantry is sustained entirely by residents, civic organizations, schools, businesses and the faith community who generously donate food items, grocery store cards and cash. The Pantry's mission is simple: **Hunger is Unacceptable in Our Community.**"* St. Philip has a basket by the door for any items you would like to donate to the pantry or you can take them directly to the pantry on Waukegan Road.



Reconciling in Christ

In January 2016, we adopted a mission statement and four vision commitments, the first of which was "We are committed to fully include every child of God."

As part of that commitment, the Council has recommended that the congregation become a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation by adopting the following welcome statement at its annual congregational meeting in January 2017:

God loves you as you are - your race, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, age, socio-economic and employment status, physical and mental ability, political affiliation, and religious background - and so do we. You are welcome here!

This is simply an affirmation of who we already understand ourselves to be as a congregation. Megan and Michael Bratkovich will be hosting a presentation during the Adult Forum on Sunday, December 11th at 10:20 am for more information and discussion. Please contact them or Pastor Kyle with any questions.

FAMILY NEWS



In loving memory ...

Thanks to the Men's Bible Study Group and those who support it for planting a tree in memory of Mike. From the very first St. Philip worship service at Glenbrook South High School through his last service here last November, he grew to love God, this church and this church family. One of the highlights of his week was the Men's Bible Study. This is a very special gift and is much appreciated by our family.

Mary

St. Philip Outing

The Men's Group of St. Philip has again made arrangement with the Chicago Wolves Hockey team to attend a game. On **Friday, February 3rd at 7:00pm** at the Allstate Arena. The Wolves will be playing the Grand Rapids Griffins. Our contact at the Wolves has been nice enough to put 60 tickets aside at a discounted price. A sign up sheet will be available at church, so please check your calendar now and sign up ASAP. Checks should be payable to Ron Branstrom to secure your reservation. As usual, all are welcome (spouses, kids, grandkids, neighbors, etc.)!



ST. PHILIP CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



Calling all from our St. Philip family ...

You are all invited to join us for a festive Christmas Experience at St. Philip—a great way to kick off our preparations for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Saturday, December 3

- 2:30 pm Children and adults of all ages ... Join us for crafts, songs, and rehearsal as we prepare a performance of the true Christmas Story
- 4:15 pm Come watch a performance entitled "Come to the Manger" performed by a cast of all ages
- 5:00 pm Feast on hors d'oeuvres in the narthex followed by a festive Christmas potluck dinner
- 6:30 pm Join in the caroling in the sanctuary to wrap up our St. Philip Christmas Experience

Please sign up for the Christmas Dinner in the hallway and see Rita Bergquist if you have any items to donate for the Christmas raffle.



Worship

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 9 am Worship with Holy Communion
 Wednesdays 6:45 pm GLOW Midweek Worship (Note: NO Worship on Nov 23, Dec 21, 28)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve 4 pm Family Worship
 Christmas Eve 11 pm Christ Mass
 Christmas Day 9 am Joint Holy Communion @ St. Philip: Pr. Chris preaching | Pr. Kyle presiding
 New Year's Day 9 am Joint Holy Communion @ Holy Trinity: Pr. Kyle preaching | Pr. Chris presiding

WORSHIP SERVERS THIS SEASON

Date	Comm. Assistants	Sacristan	Reader	Ushers	Greeter	AV Assistant	Coffee
Nov 27	LuAnn/Mike B.	Elaine	Nancy	Jack/Rita	LuAnn	Megan	Carol D
Dec 4	Ellen S./Melanie	Maxine	Bonnie	Ron/Mimi	Pam	Michael W.	Maxine
Dec 11	Pam/Melanie	Maxine	Megan	Lynne/Doug	Ron	Mimi	Katie
Dec 18	Mike B./Steve P.	Maxine	Elaine	Lyle/Gayle	LuAnn	Melanie	OPEN
Dec 24, 4 p.m.	Mike B/LuAnn	Maxine	Ellen B.	Todd/Jenny	Gemma	Megan	----
Dec. 24, 11 p.m.	Steve P./Ron	Maxine	Elaine	Lynne/Doug	Mimi	Clyde	----
Dec 25	Melanie/Steve P.	Maxine	Bonnie	Ron/Mimi	Melanie	Megan	Carol D

MUSIC NEWS

music@stphilipglenview.org | 319-520-5377



From the Minister of Music:

Opportunities for musical participation during the month of December:

The Annual Christmas Dinner on December 3 starting at 2:30 pm.

Caroling at the YMCA with Holy Trinity on December 11, 4:30 - 5:00 pm at the tree lot and then to the Covenant Village Bistro to carol to the residents from 5:00 – 5:30pm.

In addition to the choir singing on Christmas Eve there are opportunities for additional musical talent to enhance the services. If you have any interest in singing or playing a solo or being part of an ensemble for Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day please let Kjel know.

During this busy but exciting time of the year please consider participating in some musical activities. Even if you don't participate on a regular basis come and join the choir or perform as a soloist or part of a smaller ensemble.

Again if you have any interest in participating in any musical activities please contact Kjel.

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays 9 am

Men's Bible Study: Thursdays 10 am

We study the upcoming readings for our Sunday worship service so that we can hear them with greater depth.

GLOW—God's Love On Wednesdays



An evening of faith formation for all people...

Central to our mission is providing opportunities for our parishioners to be fed by the Spirit, which happens through a variety of activities—including worship, study of God's Word, singing, being together as a community, etc. Through these opportunities we are nourished and empowered to go out and share God's love with all whom we encounter.

(select units spread throughout the year)

5:15—6:30 pm Intergenerational Faith Formation

Adults and children gather for a meal and a combination of storytelling, crafts, games, music, and service projects to grow as disciples.

Session Two: God Speaks into Creation **Jan 11, 18, 25, Feb 1**

Session Three: Faith in the Face of Fire **Mar 8, 15, 22, Apr 5 (no class 3/29)**

All are truly welcome! It is important for all ages to join together and grow in faith.

Registration form is available from Pastor Kyle.

(throughout the entire school year)

6:45-7:15 pm Midweek Worship

Praise God with an upbeat worship service and message for all ages.

7:30-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Lift your voice to the glory of God in preparation for our Sunday morning service.

8:30-9:30 pm Adult Bible Study

Study a variety of biblical passages and topics related to living out your faith in daily life.

UPCOMING ...

Sunday, December 11: Reconciling In Christ

Sunday, January 22: Presentation of the Financial Plan for Mission and Vision

Sunday, January 29: Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 5: Third round of *Honoring Our Neighbors Faith*.

St. Philip Lutheran Church

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Church Leadership and Staff

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Mary Roth

Financial Secretary/Fellowship

Terri Schlangen *Mutual Ministry*

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Steve Parks *Council President / Fellowship / Mutual Ministry*

LuAnn Jones *Vice President / Property*

Melanie Chavin *Secretary / Worship and Music*

Jack Taylor *Treasurer / Finance / Communication*

Mike Bratkovich *Education*

Pam Blackstone *Outreach*

Ellen Sypura *Stewardship*

Season	Due Date for Items
Epiphany	Dec 28, 2016
Lent	Feb 13, 2017
Holy Week/Easter	Mar 24, 2017