

## Holiday Food Baskets

Share your blessings by helping provide food baskets to 400 families in the Phillips West neighborhood of Minneapolis. The distribution of holiday food baskets is a ministry in partnership with Messiah Lutheran Church, our sister congregation. Donations to purchase food may be given by check or online. Note *Messiah Thanksgiving Basket* on your check. A gift of \$50 will purchase food for two families, however any amount is greatly appreciated. Checks may be placed in the offering plate in the lobby or given to the church office. You may also give a gift at [spdlc.org/egiving](http://spdlc.org/egiving) and use the "Food Basket" tile.

A SPD family will match your contribution dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000, with the hope of providing holiday food baskets, and supporting the Community Bridge\* feeding programs into the new year.

In addition, you can sign up to help pack and distribute Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner baskets through Community Bridge at [CommunityBridgeMpls.org/holiday-baskets](http://CommunityBridgeMpls.org/holiday-baskets).

*\*Community Bridge (CB) began as a partnership of Lutheran Social Services of MN (LSS) and Messiah Lutheran Church at the Center for Changing Lives (CFCL or the Center) to enhance hospitality and community outreach in the Phillips West Neighborhood.*

## Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Fellowship Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m.

Let us give thanks for all our blessings! Join us for our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service. Worship begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by our traditional pumpkin pie fellowship.

## Advent Preparations

### Saturday, Nov. 30 at 9–11 a.m.

Join us as we decorate and prepare the Sanctuary for the Advent season. There are trees to fluff and light, garland and wreaths to be hung in place. All supplies are provided, we need your helping hands. Come and help us prepare for Advent. Questions, please contact Pastor Valerie at [vstrand@spdlc.org](mailto:vstrand@spdlc.org) or Cindy Carlson at [ccarlson@spdlc.org](mailto:ccarlson@spdlc.org).

## Beer & Hymns—Christmas Edition

### Monday, Dec. 16 at 6:30–8 p.m.

#### Luce Line Brewing

Join us for an evening of music and fellowship as we sing the hymns of Advent and Christmas! Everyone is welcome, whether you like to sing, or just hum along. No registration needed. Questions? Contact Cindy Carlson at [ccarlson@spdlc.org](mailto:ccarlson@spdlc.org) or 763-475-7115.

## 3,000 Acts of Kindness Volunteer Opportunity Monday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity to provide a day of hope and dignity to individuals in the Twin Cities who are experiencing homelessness. Find more information about the *3,000 Acts of Kindness* mission, at [coatedinlove.org](http://coatedinlove.org).

**Volunteer to serve at the event, and take the bus from SPD.** To help with driving and parking downtown we have arranged a bus for the morning session. We plan to leave SPD by bus at 7:30 a.m. and return at 1 p.m. There is no cost involved, but registration is required at [spdlc.org/register](http://spdlc.org/register).

## SPD Young Adults Together

Upcoming opportunities to meet and connect with other young adults from St. Philip the Deacon—meeting at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 5 LTD Brewing  
Monday, Dec 16 Beer & Hymns—Luce Line Brewing

## Christmas Poinsettias

Help decorate the Sanctuary during the Christmas season. You are invited to sponsor one or more in someone's memory or honor. To order poinsettias please complete the flower order below and indicate *Poinsettias* on the memo line of your check. Sponsors and their commemorations will be listed in the Christmas worship bulletin. **They may also be ordered online at [spdlc.org/register](http://spdlc.org/register).** The deadline is Monday, Dec. 9.

If you use this form, please include your commemoration as well as your name and phone number on this form. The payment should be included with your order and please indicate *Poinsettia* in the memo line. The form may be mailed to the church at 17205 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7" red poinsettia(s) at \$20 each.

Commemoration: **(check one)**

- In memory of
- In celebration of
- In honor of

Given by (list names as you want them to appear in the bulletin):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## CHRISTMAS CARE 2024: Gifts and Prayers

We will be sharing the joy and gratitude of the holiday season with the same ministries as in previous years. We like to reach out to people who get the least attention from the community. The strong message we get from shelter staff and residents is how very much it means to be thought of and remembered at Christmas.

### Update on Christmas Ministries

*Anishinabe Wakiagun: 117 residents, 74 remaining*

*Mission Lodge: 97 residents, 14 remaining*

*Smith Lodge: 19 residents, 13 remaining*

*Our Saviour's Shelter: 21 residents, **COMPLETE***

*LSS Group Homes: 11 residents, 4 remaining*

*Hart House: 25 residents, **COMPLETE***

*Mission Nursing Home: 70 residents, **COMPLETE***

*Home Free Families: 102 people complete, more families may be added. Check at the Giving Table in the Narthex.*

*Home Free Shelter: 30 moms and children, all wish list items are still welcome. The list is available in the brochure, as well as online at [spdcl.org/register](http://spdcl.org/register) under Christmas Care.*

### Shop from Individual Wish Lists

We hope to provide *Christmas Care—Gifts and Prayers* for 506 individuals, which will include Mission Lodge, Smith Lodge, Hart House, Mission Heights, Anishinabe Wakaigun, LSS Group Homes and Home Free Families.

For each person, the guideline is to spend \$50, shopping from the wish list. Please place gifts, treats and a card in a gift bag and drop them off at church by **Sun, Dec. 8.**

You may sign up at [spdcl.org/register](http://spdcl.org/register) or stop at the Giving Tables in the narthex. For those who are signing up online you will receive in the mail all the details and the gift bag label.

### Home Free Shelter

Home Free Shelter in Plymouth supports and houses women and children fleeing domestic violence. If you would like to purchase gifts for families sponsored by Home Free, you will find the list in the Christmas Care brochure. All gifts should be dropped off (unwrapped) at church by **Dec. 8.**

### Home Free Families Community program

Sign up online at [spdcl.org/register](http://spdcl.org/register) to sponsor a family being served by Home Free and living in the community, spending \$50 per person, and praying for the family throughout the holiday season. We may receive more families. Drop off gifts at church by Sunday, **Dec. 8.**

### Christmas Gift Drop-Off

To allow time for delivery, Christmas gifts should be dropped off at church by **Sunday, Dec. 8.**

## Messiah Book Drive

Families receiving Christmas food baskets will receive books for their children. Our goal is 700 new books for children: infant to teens. Books of non-violent, multi-cultural content are appreciated. Please include only new books. Also bookstore gift cards. Due date is Sunday, Dec. 8.

If you are ordering books online, they may be sent directly to the church:

St. Philip the Deacon  
Attn: Christmas Care Ministry  
17205 County Road 6  
Plymouth, MN 55447

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVENT & GATHERINGS

### Spirit Bead Workshops

**Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 3–7 p.m.**

Spirit Bead workshops invite you to create beautiful artwork as a spiritual practice and an expression of your faith. We will be making beaded Christmas tree ornaments.

### Encounter: Christmas Tea at Nicollet Island Inn

**Thursday, Dec. 5 at 12:30–3:15 p.m.**

Join us for a Christmas Tea at Nicollet Island Inn in Minneapolis. The cost is \$75 per person, which includes the tea, motorcoach transportation, service fees and taxes. Register online at [spdcl.org/register](http://spdcl.org/register) or contact Cindy Carlson at 763-475-7115 or [ccarlson@spdcl.org](mailto:ccarlson@spdcl.org).

### Kids Movie Night

**Friday, Dec. 6 at 6–8:30 p.m.**

Kids ages 6 weeks through grade 5 are invited to watch a Christmas movie, eat pizza, and make a Christmas gift for your parents at church. Come in your pajamas, if you'd like. Bring a pillow and blanket and get comfy while you watch a movie on the big screens at church. Cost is \$12 per person, for food, drink, dessert, and craft supplies. For planning purposes, registration deadline is Dec. 3, 2024.

### Christmas Connections

**Saturday, Dec. 7 at 9–11 a.m.**

All (young and older, singles and families) are invited to gather with us as we connect with each other and with the true meaning of Christmas. We will begin our time around the table with coffee and breakfast treats. Throughout the morning, we will prepare our hearts for Christmas with meaningful activities, conversation, a craft, learning, and traditions. Come, listen, relax, enjoy, and calm your heart as we near the blessed Christmas holiday. Questions? Contact Trish Arndt at [tarndt@spdcl.org](mailto:tarndt@spdcl.org).

### The Conversation: Bingo and Carols

**Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 1 p.m.**

Please join us for The Conversation. It will be a Christmas celebration as we sing some carols, and play a little bingo. We will plan to meet in the CFL—use the east parking lot. There is no cost involved, and no registration needed.

## HERALD MUSIC SERIES

The Herald Music Series is a community service of St. Philip the Deacon. The Series is a reflection and extension of St. Philip the Deacon's long commitment to outstanding music.

### Cantus Vocal Ensemble

**Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.**

Tickets are available at [cantussings.org](http://cantussings.org).

## YOGA OPPORTUNITIES

### YogaFaith

For more information, contact Amanda Berger at [aberger@spdcl.org](mailto:aberger@spdcl.org), or by phone at 763-475-7139.

### YogaFaith Vinyasa

**Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.** [on Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 190 431 409, Passcode: DOWNDOG

**Thursday at 9 a.m.** in the CFL

### Chair Yoga

**Mondays and Thursdays**

**11:30 a.m.—12:15 p.m.**

*We meet in the CFL. Enter at Door E on the east side.*

Chair Yoga is for folks with limited flexibility or anyone who needs to take it easy on their joints. Payment is by free will donation. Questions contact Kathy Hagedorn at 763-475-7138.

### All Is Calm: Advent Yoga with Harp

**Thursday, Dec. 19 at 11:30 a.m.** (Chair Yoga)

**Friday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.** (Mat Yoga)—[Register online](#)

Join us for this popular, gentle yoga practice that helps you find stillness and peace during the advent season, and features harpist Rachel Brandwein. This slow and meditative yoga practice unites breath, scripture, prayer and movement to help us reconnect to our bodies and find God's peace and presence. Suggested donation is \$20 with proceeds going to Christmas ministries. [Register online](#) to reserve your spot for the Friday, Dec. 20 mat class, and pay at the door. (No registration required for the chair class on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 11:30 a.m.—just drop in!)

## SPD OUTDOOR MINISTRY

### 2024 Winter Fishing Retreat

**Jan. 30—Feb. 2, 2025**

**Registration is open at [spdcl.org/register](http://spdcl.org/register)**

The 11th Annual SPD Outdoors Winter Fishing Retreat on beautiful Lake of the Woods. (located 5 1/2 hours (315 miles north.) Accommodations and guide service will be provided by **Border View Lodge** in Baudette, MN—located where the Rainy River enters Lake of the Woods. You will experience two full days of fishing in one of their toasty warm fish houses. All cost of meals is included. **The cost does not include a Minnesota fishing license, transportation/gas, or gratuities.**

We will be carpooling to Border View Lodge. Those riding with another participant will share in the cost of gasoline.

Adults—\$599; 18 & Under—\$449 per person

## SERVING OTHERS

### Interfaith Outreach Food Pantry Needs

The food shelf is a valuable resource to families in our local community. Hunger in the suburbs is not always visible, but it is no less real. The Interfaith Outreach Food Shelf serves over 250 households per week and 44% of the people served are children. The food shelf is a safety net and supplemental resource for families and seniors who live on low and fixed incomes. The full list of food shelf donation needs can be found at [iocp.org/outreach-services/food-shelf](http://iocp.org/outreach-services/food-shelf).

### Help School Kids in Need

Throughout the school year we receive a variety of requests from several of the area elementary school social workers for students and families who have specific needs. Email Cindy Carlson at [ccarson@spdcl.org](mailto:ccarson@spdcl.org) if you would like to be on call to help. You would receive an email with information for a specific child. There is generally a pretty quick turn around to shop for the child. An alternative option is to provide financial support for this project with a gift to the *SPD Angel Fund* (either by check or online).

### Winter Jackets

We are collecting warm, gently used winter jackets of all sizes (children and adult), as well as children's snow pants. There is a particular need for jackets for teens, as well as men's and women's larger size coats (XL and XXL). **Coats can be used, but should be clean and in good condition.** Drop off items in Fellowship Hall.

### Interfaith Outreach Sleep Out—Through Dec. 31

Last weekend our middle school and high school youth participated in the annual Interfaith Outreach Sleep Out. The Sleep Out is a 29-year community tradition, in which thousands of caring kids and community members have slept in boxes, tents and cars (or donate to those who do) to raise awareness and funds to prevent homelessness. You may support this campaign online at [icop.org/donate](http://icop.org/donate).

### Communion Servers

You may sign up either individually or as a pair for a particular date and service at [spdcl.org/register](http://spdcl.org/register) under Worship Assistants. In addition, communion is served each week on Saturday evening and at the 10:45 a.m. services.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day

### Stay Connected—Especially Snow Birds

**Help us keep our contact information up to date,** please let us know using our [online Update Contact Information form](#) or you may also contact our membership coordinator, Nancy Bixby, with any changes at 763-475-7166 or [nbixby@spdcl.org](mailto:nbixby@spdcl.org).

## 2024 End-of-Year SPD Giving Guidelines

Thank you for your faithful support of St. Philip the Deacon. Your generosity makes our mission and ministry possible.

As the year concludes, please follow these guidelines for your final 2024 contributions:

For a gift to be considered a 2024 contribution, there are five ways to deliver your gifts. **All of these methods must be completed before midnight on Dec. 31, 2024. Offerings received after Dec. 31 will be recorded as 2025 offerings, regardless of which year's envelope is used.**

1. Place your gift into the offering plates in the Narthex before/after worship services.
2. Deliver to the church office (Mon.–Thu. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
3. Place in the black mail drop-box outside of Door B (upper level parking lot/ west office door)
4. Give electronically at [spdcl.org/egiving](https://spdcl.org/egiving).
5. Send via U.S. Mail, it must be postmarked on or before Dec. 31, 2024.

### A few things to note about gifts of stock, IRA distributions and prepayment for 2025 giving:

1. All stock and IRA distributions/charitable gifts also follow the above guidelines.
2. If you wish to transfer stock to the church's Schwab account, **please let us know about your gift, as donor names are not disclosed by Schwab.** Contact Moe Hagestuen for transfer instructions.
3. When transferring assets to the SPD Schwab account from firms other than Schwab, **processing times typically vary from two to six weeks.** Assets must be transferred and deposited into our Schwab account by Dec. 31, 2024.
4. If you wish to prepay your 2025 contributions, **please make a notation on the envelope, and write in the check memo, "Prepayment for 2025."** To receive credit on your 2024 year-end statement, 2025 prepayments must also be received by Dec. 31, 2024. If an electronic gift is desired to be recorded as a 2025 prepay, the gift must be initiated on or before Dec. 31, 2024. A call or email to the finance office is extremely helpful if an electronic 2025 prepayment gift has been initiated.

We are grateful to you for your part in helping us continue to Reach Out, Proclaim and Inspire. Remember: Your gifts make a difference. (*Ephesians 1:15-19*)

Questions? Contact Moe Hagestuen, Finance Administrator [finance@spdcl.org](mailto:finance@spdcl.org) or 763-475-7124

## CARE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

### Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

**Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.**

There is an AA chapter that meets at St. Philip the Deacon in the CFL on Tuesday evenings. Park in the lower level parking lot, and use Door E. For questions, contact Mike Conley at 612-619-6448.

### Caregivers Support Group

**Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m.**

This is a weekly meeting of people who are currently the primary caregiver for another adult. In many cases, members are spouses or adult children of someone who is living with dementia or other long-term illness, though the group is not specifically aimed at any single care scenario. Members gather to take a break from their setting, share ideas and support one another. Contact Susan Path, Parish Nurse, for more information: [spath@spdcl.org](mailto:spath@spdcl.org) or 763-475-7168.

### Thrive: Cancer Support Group

**1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m.**

Thrive is a support group for those who have been diagnosed with cancer. We will be addressing our fears and journey for hope. You will find support, emotionally and spiritually, in a confidential environment. The group **meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1–2 p.m.** Contact Susan Path, Parish Nurse [spath@spdcl.org](mailto:spath@spdcl.org) or 763-475-7168 with questions or zoom link.

### Sanctuary of Survivors (SOS)

**1st and 3rd Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.**

Sanctuary of Survivors is a faith-based support group for those who have lost a loved one by suicide. All emotions, all questions will be heard and honored by this group. All are welcome, wherever you are on your faith journey, including questioning or having a crisis of faith. Please contact Pastor Valerie Strand Patterson at [vstrand@spdcl.org](mailto:vstrand@spdcl.org) for information on how to join the group, including on Zoom.

### Mental Health Connect

If you need help finding appropriate mental health care, there are resources available to help at Mental Health Connect. [www.mhconnect.org](http://www.mhconnect.org). Call or text 612-642-1220.

### West Suburban Grief Coalition

**Thursday afternoons, 4–6 p.m.**

The West Suburban Grief Coalition is an extension of 15 area churches to help provide caring support and education for persons who are grieving the death of a loved one.

*The West Suburban Grief Coalition is meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2060 County Road 6, Long Lake, MN 55356.*

All individuals are welcome, and no registration is needed. There is a brochure with more information available at the hospitality desk. For more information about Grief Coalition, contact Harley Feldman at [harleyfeldman@gmail.com](mailto:harleyfeldman@gmail.com).