

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Share your blessings by helping provide food baskets to 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, and their program, Community Bridge, which they operate with Luther Social Services.

Donations to purchase food are always welcome, by check or online. Please note "Messiah Holiday Baskets" on your check. Checks may be placed in the offering plate in the lobby or given to the church office. You may also give a gift at spdcl.org/giving and use the "Food Basket" category.

**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.*

The Memory and Caring Trees

You are invited to honor someone you miss and mourn during the holiday season by adding their name to our Memory Tree in the Sanctuary. Write their name/s on an ornament (next to the tree) and place it on the tree. Four-legged family member names are also welcome.

In addition to the Memory Tree in the Sanctuary, we also have a Caring Tree in the Narthex. This tree displays ornaments with the names of members of our church who are not able to be with us physically for worship. The ornaments are a way to remember them during the Advent and Christmas season, and we invite you to keep them in your prayers.

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 at spdcl.org/contact](https://spdcl.org/contact), or you may contact our membership coordinator, Nancy Bixby, with any changes at 763-475-7166 or nbixby@spdcl.org.

Prayer Requests

You can make a prayer request online by visiting our information request form at spdcl.org/contact. All requests will be held in prayer and kept in confidence. If you would like a pastor to call you please include your contact information.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Communion Servers

You are invited to sign up either individually or as a pair for a particular date and service at spdcl.org/register under Worship Assistants.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 2, 4, 5:30, 7:30, 9 and 11 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 11 a.m.

Luminaries—Christmas Eve

If you are willing to help extinguish and collect luminaries on Christmas Eve (after the 11 p.m. worship service), please contact Pastor Valerie Strand Patterson at vstrand@spdcl.org.

CHRISTMAS CARE 2024: Gifts and Prayers

We are grateful to our faith community for your generosity and for sharing the joy and gratitude of the holiday season with our neighbors who are living in local shelters this year. The strong message from the shelters' staffs and residents is how very much it means to be thought of and remembered at Christmas. Your gifts make such a great difference in these neighbors' lives. Thank you!

Update on Christmas Ministries

Anishinabe Wakiagun: 117 residents, **COMPLETE**

Mission Lodge: 97 residents, **COMPLETE**

Smith Lodge: 19 residents, **COMPLETE**

Mission Heights: 12 residents, **COMPLETE**

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

LSS Group Homes: 11 residents, **COMPLETE**

Hart House: 25 residents, **COMPLETE**

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

Home Free Families: 105 people complete, more families may be added. **COMPLETE.**

Home Free Shelter Wish List **COMPLETE.**

Home Free Shelter in Plymouth supports and houses women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Messiah Book Drive **COMPLETE.**

Families receiving Christmas food baskets will receive books for their children. We exceeded our goal of 700 new books for children: infant to teens.

ADULT EDUCATION AND RETREATS

Spiritual Growth Workshop: Sacred Rhythms

Saturday, Jan. 11 from 9:30–11:30 a.m.—[Register online](#)

Taught by Amanda Berger, this Spiritual Growth Workshop invites you to deepen your relationship with God by looking at practical, everyday topics of the spiritual life. Registration includes course materials. (No book will be provided.) Exploring nine spiritual disciplines—tools that we can use to grow in relationship with God—we'll start the New Year with an invitation to choose a new-to-you way of connecting with Jesus. Based on *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation* by Ruth Haley Barton, this workshop has something for everyone.

Abide Class

Beginning on Monday, Jan. 13

Abide is a weekly gathering designed to help you follow Jesus in your everyday life. Each month, we'll focus on one passage of scripture, exploring it through study, prayer, loving our neighbors, and storytelling. Leaders: Amanda Berger, Renee Putnam, and Jen Galley. Register by Jan. 12.

January Theme: *Longing for More*

We'll explore how God meets us in our longing and leads us toward deeper connection and transformation.

Jan. 13: Bible Study

Encounter Jesus with Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46–52)

We'll read the story and unpack it together.

Jan. 20: Prayer Practice

Discover a fresh way to connect with God based on the theme.

Jan. 27: Story Circles

Gather in small groups to share and listen to personal stories inspired by this month's theme.

Registration Link: <https://spdcl.asapconnected.com/#CourseGroupID=37868>

Alpha Class

Sunday mornings at 10:45–11:45 a.m.

Jan. 19–March 2

Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith. Everyone's welcome. Childcare is provided. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs.

- Connect with new people
- Watch an episode on a question of faith
- Share your thoughts & hear from others

Women's Retreat 2025

February 21–23

The retreat will be at the Benedictine Center, Maplewood. This Women's Retreat will explore themes in the book, *Prayers of the Cosmos* by Neil Douglas-Klotz, an exploration of the Lord's Prayer through the lens of Jesus' native language, Aramaic. Come and grow deeper in this prayer that is central to our faith. Watch for registration information which will be coming soon.

Baptism Brunch

Sunday, Jan. 12 at 10:30 a.m.

On the day we celebrate the **Baptism of Our Lord** in worship—we will celebrate with a **Baptism Brunch** for all families with a member who was baptized at St. Philip the Deacon during 2024.

- Celebrate with your baptized family member
- Meet other families
- Tour the childcare center
- Connect with staff
- Learn to how the church can walk beside you as you share your faith with those you love.

There is no cost, but please register to help us plan. Questions? Contact: Kathy Hagedorn, khagedorn@spdcl.org, 763-475-7138.

Baptism at SPD

We welcome baptisms of infants, older children and adults at St. Philip the Deacon. It is in the waters of baptism we are named and claimed as God's own. This sacrament is gladly offered for you and your family, regardless of membership status at SPD.

In preparation of a baptism, we have created a baptism video at spdcl.org/life-events. To schedule a baptism, please complete our [Baptism Information Form](#), which is available online at spdcl.org/life-events. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Bixby at nbixby@spdcl.org, or 763-475-7166

Conversation

Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 1 p.m.

"The Conversation" provides members of the congregation with an opportunity for community, and connection. Our guest speaker, photographer and storyteller, Doug Ohman. We will meet in Fellowship Hall—please use the west parking lot on the upper level (Door A).

SPD New Member Class

Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to learn more about this faith community and our mission and ministry, join us for our next new member class. You may register at spdcl.org/register. The class is an hour, with childcare available. If you have questions, contact Pastor Tim Westermeyer at twestermeyer@spdcl.org or Cindy Carlson at ccarlson@spdcl.org. We will receive new members on Sunday, Jan. 26 at the 9:30 a.m. service.

Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church Mondays, February 3 – March 10, 2025 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Many Christians believe our future in heaven is all that really matters. But that's not what the Bible teaches. In this six-session video-driven Bible study by N. T. Wright brings you inside the Scriptures to grasp the full, breathtaking hope Jesus offers the world, and its impact on your life today. The class will be facilitated by Rev. Wayne Peterson.

Middle School/High School Youth: Snow Tubing at Elm Creek

Friday, Jan. 10 at 5:45–9 p.m.

Middle & High School Kids, this will be a fun night of tubing at Elm Creek Park Reserve. Meet at St. Philip where the bus will take you to the tubing hill and back afterward. Wear your snow clothes and boots and encourage a friend to register, too! \$20 per person.

Cribbage, Cards, and Chili

Sunday, Feb. 2 at 3 p.m.

The afternoon will include cribbage and other card games (Hearts, Uno, etc.), chili and conversations. There is no fee, but registration is helpful for planning purposes (spdlc.org/register). Open to ALL ages.

Matter of Balance Workshop

Tuesdays, Feb. 4–March 25 at 10 a.m.—[Register online](#)

This program is for you if you are concerned about falls, have had a fall in the past or restrict activities because of concerns of falling. This is an eight (8) week class. Contact Susan Path, parish nurse, with questions: spath@spdlc.org or 763-475-7168.

Faith & Life Lecture Series

Thursday, February 6, at 7 p.m.

Faith & Transformation: A Personal Story of Restoration
The presenter will be Darryl Strawberry. The lecture is free and open to the public

Altar Flowers

You are invited to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year to beautify our sanctuary for worship. Cost is \$75 per bouquet. Your commemoration (for instance, to celebrate an occasion or remember a loved one) will be shared in the worship folder and on the livestream slideshow before worship at 9:30 a.m. [Sign up online to sponsor flowers](#), or call the church if you need assistance at 763-475-7100.

SPD OUTDOOR MINISTRY

2024 Winter Fishing Retreat

Jan. 30–Feb. 2

Registration is open at spdlc.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 and under—\$449 per person

Salt & Light Three-Year Appeal

Through our 2025-2027 appeal, St. Philip the Deacon will focus on making what is already a vital and vibrant church even more effective at spreading God's love. Our Salt & Light appeal will allow us to: invest in ways to build community; teach and engage our young people; expand our educational and spiritual growth opportunities; help people connect through service and engagement; and engage more people through our digital outreach. We invite everyone connected to St. Philip the Deacon to **help us meet our goal for this appeal by responding to this important invitation.** Thank you for helping us more fully become the salt that flavors our community, and the light that can shine God's love and hope into a hurting world. Salt & Light commitment cards can be turned in anytime.

SERVING OTHERS

Interfaith Outreach Sleep Out—Through Dec. 31

Recently, 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.

Collecting Used Eyeglasses

We are a collection site for used glasses! You can bring them to the church office entrance, Door B. You'll find a collection bucket on the coat rack inside the door. They will be recycled by the Lions Club International. They will be happy to receive **used hearing aids, too!**

YOGA OPPORTUNITIES

YogaFaith

For more information, contact Amanda Berger at aberger@spdlc.org, or by phone at 763-475-7139.

YogaFaith Vinyasa

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

Meeting ID: 190 431 409, Passcode: Downdog

NOTE: the Monday night Zoom class is being discontinued at the end of 2024.

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.

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.
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 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 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 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 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. 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 Mt Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth, 12235 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth.

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.