

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 spd.org/register. The class is an hour, with childcare available. If you have questions, contact Pastor Tim Westermeyer at twestermeyer@spd.org or Cindy Carlson at ccarlson@spd.org. We will receive new members on Sunday, Jan. 26 at the 9:30 a.m. service.

Alpha Class

Sunday mornings at 10:45–11:45 a.m.

Jan. 19–March 2 Register at spd.org/register

Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith. Everyone's welcome. Childcare is available. 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

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://spd.org/asapconnected.com/#CourseGroupID=37868>

Updated Church Directories Arrived

You may pick up your household's copy of the directory at the Hospitality Desk in the Atrium.

New Women's Circle Information Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Women's circles are centered around fellowship, study, prayer and service. If you've been wanting to grow in your faith and meet new people in the congregation, this is a wonderful opportunity.

The plans are to launch a new daytime circle this winter. Come and learn more about being a part of this new circle at SPD. Circles generally meet the third week of the month. Contact Cindy Carlson at 763-475-7115 or email at ccarlson@spd.org for more information.

SPD Annual Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 9 in the Sanctuary

The meeting will be immediately following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. We'll review the past year's accomplishments, and get a glimpse into plans for the mission and ministry of our congregation in 2025. The meeting will also be available via livestream at spd.org/livestream.

Stay Connected

Help us keep our contact information up to date.

Please let us know using our [online Update Contact Information form at spd.org/contact](https://spd.org/contact), or you may contact our membership coordinator, Nancy Bixby, with any changes at 763-475-7166 or nbixby@spd.org.

Prayer Requests

You can make a prayer request online by visiting our information request form at spd.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.

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](https://spd.org/flowers), or call the church if you need assistance at 763-475-7100.

Lost & Found Table

Check for missing items at the Lost & Found table in Fellowship Hall. At the end of January any unclaimed items will be donated.

ADULT EDUCATION AND RETREATS

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, Doug Ohman, photographer and storyteller, will share his program *Name that Town*. We will meet in Fellowship Hall—please use the west parking lot on the upper level (Door A).

SPD Young Adults Together

Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m., LTD Brewing

We meet for snacks and drinks (non-alcohol options are always available), conversation and community. Snacks and appetizers provided. Drop in for a half hour or stay the entire time. Text Olsen Pancoast for more info at 701-578-5041.

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.

Introductory meeting on Sunday, Jan. 19

There is an opportunity to learn more about the class by attending a pre-class informational meetings for Matter of Balance between worship services:

9:10 a.m.–9:30 a.m. or 10:25 a.m.–10:45 a.m.
in the Fireside Room (middle level)

Prayer Shawl Monthly Gatherings

4th Thursdays at 1 p.m. Next Meeting: **Jan. 23**

The Prayer Shawl Guild will meet monthly at SPD. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join this time of community, creativity and support. To learn more, contact Susan Path at spath@spdlc.org.

Expressions of Faith

Saturday, Jan. 25 at 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Enjoy the devotional practice of Bible Art Journaling, learning how to illustrate your own Bible in a meditative expression of your faith. Bring your Bible and past projects you would like to share and show. There will also be a guide project. Drop in as you are able, lunch will be provided. Cost is \$10. The class will meet in the Fireside Room on the middle level.

Holy Grounds

Monday mornings, 9:45–10:45 a.m.

This class will be very practical and hands-on as participants experience a time for slowing down, devotional prayer and study, a new daily practice, and faithful conversation. It all begins with coffee and fellowship. Registration is not required, drop in as you can make it. For more information contact Amanda Berger at aberger@spdlc.org.

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.

Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church

Mondays, Feb. 3–March 10, 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. 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. Register at spdlc.org/register.

Faith & Life Lecture Series: Darryl Strawberry

Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Darryl Strawberry, and his presentation is *Faith & Transformation: A Personal Story of Restoration*. The lecture is free and open to the public.

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, focusing on the Beatitudes through the lens of Jesus' native language, Aramaic. Come learn, laugh and worship together. Register at spdlc.org/register.

Silent Movie with Organ

Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.

Don't miss the opportunity to relive cinematic history and enjoy the rare experience of a silent film accompanied by a majestic, live organ performance. Our guest organist, Jason Roberts, will perform during the showing of the 1925 Charlie Chaplin movie, *Gold Rush*. The movie is free, and open to the public. The film runs around an hour and a half, is family-friendly, and kids are invited to attend. However, younger children may prefer to attend Kids Movie Night, starting at 6 p.m., which includes a pizza supper.

There is an optional dinner prior to the movie, for which reservations are required and the cost is \$10 per person ([register at spdlc.org/register](http://spdlc.org/register)).

Walking inside the Church When It's Cold Outside

Members of the SPD community are invited to exercise by taking a walk inside the church during office hours when the facilities are not in use for other activities. Please check in at the office so we are aware you are in the building. Maps with routes for 1 mile walks are available in the office. Office hours are 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday–Thursday, and 9 a.m.–3 p.m. on Friday.

Children, Youth and Family Programs

Weekly Programs for Children and Youth

You are invited to join any of our children's and youth programs: Sunday School, Children's Choirs, the Childcare Center, Verse 5, Confirmation and High School ministry.

Sunday School

Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Preschool 3 years–Pre K)

Elementary School (K–4th grade)

Childcare Center

Childcare is available during the Sunday morning worship services (8:15, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.)

Verse 5

Wednesday, Jan. 22 and Feb. 5 and 19 at 6 p.m.

Meets twice a month on a Wednesday at 6–7:30 p.m. Verse 5 is a ministry program of faith and fellowship for 5th grade students. They gather twice a month throughout the school year. Questions, contact Trish Arndt at tarndt@spdlc.org.

Confirmation

Students in grades 6–8 meet on Wednesday evenings (6:30–7:30 p.m.) throughout the school year, as part of a three year Confirmation program. Learn more at spdlc.org/register. If you have questions, contact Charlie Olsen at colson@spdlc.org.

High School Ministry (Koin)

Meets weekly on Wednesdays, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Our purpose is to build "Koinonia"—Christian fellowship.

Questions, contact Olsen Pancoast at opancoast@spdlc.org.

Tuesday Story Time

Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Resumes on Jan. 21

Knowing that many of our singers in the Dynamic Deacons (ages K–2nd grade) and Chancel Choir (3–5th grade) may have younger siblings, we will have Story Time for these younger children while their older siblings are singing. But that doesn't mean you have to have a sibling in the choir to be eligible to come to Story Time—all preschoolers are welcome! No need to register. We meet in Room 101.

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

Children's Library—Book Return

Have you borrowed books in the past year from the Children's Resource Library on the lower level? We're about to do our annual inventory, and it would be a great help if you could return any borrowed books by Jan. 19. Thank you so much! Questions? Contact Kathy Hagedorn at khagedorn@spdlc.org.

Winter Youth Retreat

Feb. 14–17—[Register online](#)

High School students will have a wonderful, long President's Day weekend playing outside and exploring our faith and our connection to God's Creation! We'll play broomball, cross-country ski and snowshoe across the lakes that we'll canoe on this summer, as well as enjoy cozy, family style meals hosted by Wilderness Canoe Base.

A Day for Dads with Young Children

Saturday, May 3, 9a.m.–4 p.m.

More information and register will follow in the coming weeks, but for now save the date.

YOGA OPPORTUNITIES

YogaFaith

Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

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

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: Chair Yoga with Harp

Monday, Jan. 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Because of the pre-Christmas winter storm, we had to cancel the Chair Yoga edition of our annual harp-led All is Calm yoga practice, with harpist Rachel Brandwein. But we've rescheduled it for a cozy January morning. 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. No registration required.

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.

Gustavus Choir

Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m.

No tickets required; free will offering

Cantus Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, April 13 at 3 p.m.

Tickets available at cantussings.org

SERVING OTHERS

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.

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!**

MLK Day of Service

Monday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Interfaith Outreach Resale Store, 1605 Cty Rd 101

Make MLK Day a Day of Service—Volunteer at Resale Select on Jan. 20! Spend your MLK National Day of Service with IOCP. You'll be helping to strengthen our community by meeting basic needs and equipping individuals and families for ongoing stability.

They are asking for volunteers to help behind the scenes in the Resale Select store. Tasks include sorting, hanging, and tagging, in search of treasures we will put on our shelves. Volunteers will be on their feet for most of the shift so please wear comfortable shoes and clothing. This opportunity is open to individuals, families, and groups! Volunteers must be 16 years old to volunteer on their own, 14-15 years old with adult supervision. No previous experience needed! Learn more or sign up online at iocp.volunteerhub.com.

Funeral Reception Team

Please consider how you might help with this tremendously supportive ministry. The ways to help include: baking cookies or bars, or helping with either the set-up or serving of the reception. There are options to help during the week, as well as weekends. Contact Cindy Carlson at ccarlson@spdlc.org or 763-475-7115, if you would like to be **added to the on-call list** to help with funeral receptions.

Update from the Finance Office:

2024 Year-End Giving Statements will be in the mail the week of Jan. 20. Your faithful support of St. Philip the Deacon over the last twelve months once again allowed us to fulfill our mission—to *Reach Out, Proclaim, Inspire*. On behalf of everyone who is blessed by the ministry of this congregation, we extend our gratitude and appreciation. Remember: Your gifts make a difference. Thank you. Contact Moe Hagestuen, Finance Administrator, with questions at finance@spdlc.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@spdlc.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@spdlc.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@spdlc.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.