

Messiah 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. Donations to purchase food may be given by check or online. Note *Messiah Holiday Food 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 spdcl.org/giving and indicate "food baskets." 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* programs.

In addition, you can sign up to help pack and distribute Christmas dinner baskets through Community Bridge at serve@spdcl.org.

Holiday Food Basket distribution dates

Christmas Basket packing	Dec. 16, 17, 18, 19
Christmas Basket delivery	Saturday, Dec. 20

**Community Bridge (CB) began as a partnership of Lutheran Social Service 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.*

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.

Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 2, 4, 5:30, 7:30, 9 and 11 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 25 at 11 a.m.

Readers

Please let us know if you are willing to read at one of the following worship services.

Christmas Eve at 2 and 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Day at 11 a.m.

Luminaries

If you are willing to help with the luminaries on Christmas Eve, please contact Pastor Valerie Strand Patterson at vstrand@spdcl.org.

- Set out and light luminaries at 4 p.m.
- Extinguish and collect luminaries at midnight

All Congregation: Christmas Dinner and Show Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5:45–8 P.M.

A special evening for the whole congregation—both young and old alike. The evening will include dinner, and a live performance of the play, *A Misfit Christmas*, brought to us by Theater for the Thirsty. Smile, laugh, and hum along to your favorite Christmas carols as a tone-deaf angel, an absent minded census taker, a cow, a little drummer girl, and several other misfits share their offbeat and charming stories of the first Christmas. After the show, we'll enjoy singing some of our favorite Christmas tunes. There is no cost for the event, but registration is required for planning purposes. Please register at spdcl.org/register by Dec. 2. There will be childcare available during the program for children under 3 years old.

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 spdcl.org/register. The deadline is Monday, Dec. 8.**

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):

Connect @ SPD—Especially Snowbirds

Help us keep our contact information up to date.

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

CHRISTMAS CARE 2025: 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, 50 remaining

Mission Lodge: 120 residents, 33 remaining

Smith Lodge: 20 residents, 6 remaining

*Mission Heights: 14 residents, **COMPLETE***

Our Saviour's Shelter: 38 residents, 8 remaining

LSS Group Homes: 11 residents, 9 remaining

*Hart House: 24 residents, **COMPLETE***

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

Home Free Families: 24 families sponsored 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 spdlc.org/register under Christmas Care.

Shop from Individual Wish Lists

We hope to provide Christmas Care—Gifts and Prayers for 544 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 **Sunday, Dec. 7.**

You may sign up at spdlc.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 **Sunday, Dec. 7.**

Home Free Families Community program

Sign up online at spdlc.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. 7.**

Christmas Gift Drop-Off

To allow time for delivery, Christmas gifts should be dropped off at church by **Sunday, Dec. 7.**

Messiah Book Drive

Families receiving Christmas food baskets will receive books for their children. Our goal is 500 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. 7.** 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

Pathfinders: *Walking Together in Your 20s and 30s*

Pathfinders is a group of young adults walking through their 20s and 30's together. They worship, serve and enjoy fellowship together. Join the Pathfinder Group found on the spdlc.org/hub for more information and addresses of locations.

Dec. 4 Trivia at Under Pressure Brewing
Dec. 15 Beer & Hymns at Luce Line Brewing
Dec. 18 Pathfinders Christmas Party @ the Narveson's

The Conversation: Bingo and Carols

Tuesday, Dec. 9 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.

Kids Drop-off Night

Friday, Dec. 12 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. 8.

Cantus Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.

Enjoy the Cantus Christmas Concert, which will be held at St Philip the Deacon. Tickets are available at cantussings.org.

Beer & Hymns—Christmas Edition

Mon., Dec. 15 at 6:30–8 p.m. at 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. Contact Cindy Carlson at ccarlson@spdlc.org or 763-475-7115, with questions.

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.

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 Renee at serve@spdlc.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).

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 30-year community tradition, to raise awareness and funds to prevent homelessness. You may support this campaign online at icop.org/donate.

Community Bridge Food Shelf

Friday, Dec. 12 at 8:30–11:30 a.m.

Community Bridge began as a partnership of Lutheran Social Service of MN (LSS) and Messiah Lutheran Church at the Center for Changing Lives to enhance hospitality and community outreach in the Phillips West Neighborhood. Learn more at www.communitybridgempls.org. If you are interested in serving at Community Bridge, please contact Mary Lundquist at 612-321-1967.

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.

Communion Servers

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

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24
2, 4, 5:30, 7:30, 9 and 11 p.m.
Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25
11 a.m.

Memorial Center Blood Drive

Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Because the holiday season is an especially challenging time for blood donations, your appointment can make a real difference! We're excited to welcome Memorial Blood Centers back to St. Philip the Deacon for a Blood Drive here on our campus.

Appointments can be found here: www.mbcherohub.club/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/76938

For details, please contact Renee Putnam at serve@spdlc.org or call 763-475-7162.

YOGA OPPORTUNITIES

Embodied Prayer: Yoga @ SPD

Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the CFL

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

Chair Yoga

Mondays and Thursdays

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. in the CFL

Chair Yoga is a program for folks with limited flexibility or anyone who needs to take it easy on their joints. Questions? Contact Kathy Hagedorn at 763-475-7138.

All Is Calm: Advent Yoga with Harp

Thursday, Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. (Chair Yoga)

Thursday, Dec. 18 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. All is Calm Advent Yoga 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 and pay at the door.

SPD OUTDOORS

2026 Winter Fishing Retreat

Jan. 29–Feb. 1, 2026

Registration is open

Join us for the 12th Annual SPD Outdoors Winter Fishing Retreat on beautiful Lake of the Woods. Forget sitting on a bucket on a frozen lake, we spend the day catching walleye on one of the best walleye fisheries in the world in a heated fish house. Accommodations and guide service will be provided by Border View Lodge in Baudette, MN.

Adult - \$650 | Child (18 and under) - \$550. Scholarships available. All meals are provided by SPD Outdoors. *Cost does not include a Minnesota fishing license, transportation/gas, or gratuities. Questions? Contact Pastor Mark Schmid at mschmid@spdlc.org or 763-475-7127.

2025 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 helpful guidelines for your final 2025 contributions:

As the year concludes, please follow these helpful guidelines for your final 2025 contributions:

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

You may:

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 spdgc.org/egiving.
5. Send via U.S. Mail—must be postmarked on or before Dec. 31, 2025.

A few things to note about gifts of stock, IRA distributions and prepayment for 2026 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.**
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, 2025.
1. If you wish to prepay your 2026 contributions, **please make a notation on the envelope, and write in the check memo, "Prepayment for 2026."** To receive credit on your 2025 year-end statement, 2026 prepayments must also be received by Dec. 31, 2025. If an electronic gift is desired to be recorded as a 2026 prepay, the gift must be initiated on or before Dec. 31, 2025. A call or email to the finance office is extremely helpful if an electronic 2026 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@spdgc.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 Matt Geurink at mdgeurink@yahoo.com.

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@spdgc.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@spdgc.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@spdgc.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

Thursdays, 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.

Beginning Dec. 4, the West Suburban Grief Coalition meetings are being held at Minnetonka United Methodist Church at 17611 Lake Street Ext., Minnetonka, MN

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.