

SPD New Member Orientation

Monday, Jan. 26 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 spdlic.org/register. The class is an hour, with childcare available. If you have questions, contact Pastor Tim Westermeyer at twestermeyer@spdlic.org or Cindy Carlson at ccarlson@spdlic.org. We will receive new members on Sunday, Feb. 1 at the 9:30 a.m. service.

Updating the Church Directory

We would like to update our church pictorial directory, and we need your help! We are asking you to **send in an updated photo of you/your family members** who attend church with us. The photos may be in a formal setting or casual, we just ask that faces are easy to see. Please send your updated photo and contact information changes to Nancy Bixby at nbixby@spdlic.org.

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

Prayer Requests

You can make a prayer request online by visiting our information request form at spdlic.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](#), 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.

How to Read the Bible: A Four-Fold Approach

Mondays, Feb. 9–March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

In this introductory course, we'll explore a four-fold method for reading the Bible that helps you explore the text's cultural context, understand its literary layers, reflect on its theological meaning, and connect it to daily life. Whether you're new to Bible study or looking for a fresh approach, this class will give you practical tools, meaningful insights, and space for thoughtful conversation. The class will be taught by Rev. Wayne Peterson. Register at spdlic.org/register.

HERALD MUSIC SERIES

The Herald Music Series is a community service of St. Philip the Deacon. The Series is a reflection and extension of SPD's long commitment to outstanding music. No tickets are required, all performances are free will offering.

Heartland Marimba Quartet

Sunday, Jan. 25 at 3 p.m.

The Heartland Marimba Ensemble is a touring group of accomplished performers. Their repertoire includes many styles and genres such as jazz, classical, tango, ragtime, Americana, holiday music, and pop.

Silent Movie with Organ

Friday, Feb. 20 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. The featured organist is Aaron David Miller and the film is "For Heaven's Sake" (1926). The movie is free, and open to the public.

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

UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

2025 Year-End Giving Statements will be in the mail the week of Jan. 19. 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@spdlic.org or 763-475-7124.

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

Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

Texa-Tonka Bowling

Pathfinders is a group of young adults walking together through their 20s and 30s. They worship, serve and enjoy fellowship together. Join the Pathfinder group at spdlic.org/groups for more information and addresses of locations.

Women's Circle Information Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.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 hope is to launch a new evening circle this winter. The Circle would meet on the third Tuesday evening from 6:30–7:30 p.m. Come and learn more about being a part of this new circle at SPD. Contact Cindy Carlson at 763-475-7115 or email at ccarlson@spdlic.org for more information.

Cribbage, Cards and Chili

Sunday, Feb. 1 at 3 p.m.

The afternoon will include cribbage and other card and board games (Hearts, Uno, etc.), chili and conversations. There is no fee, but registration is helpful for planning purposes (spdlic.org/register). Everyone is invited!

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@spdlic.org.

Men's Bible Study and Fellowship

Wednesday mornings

6:30–7:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

This group which has been meeting for over 20 years, includes good church coffee, an occasional Danish and lots of Christian fellowship. We welcome others to join us as we study on the *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. open to men of all ages. Contact Ed Wasz, 763-218-5351, with any questions.

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. Office phone: 763-475-7100.

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

Christmas Thank You's / Ornaments

Stop at the table in Fellowship Hall to see a number of beautiful and heartfelt thank you notes we have received in response to the Christmas Care gifts. Truly your gift made a difference for many people in our community during the Christmas season.

Also on the table are the ornaments from the Memory Tree. If you made an ornament in memory of a loved one, you are welcome to stop and pick it up.

FAITH & LIFE

Public conversations where faith comes to life. All Faith & Life presentations are free and open to the public. Learn more at faithandlife.org.

Faith & Life with Lee C. Camp

Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m.

Faith & Technology: What Does It Mean to be Human?
Lee C. Camp is a Distinguished Faculty Fellow for the Center for Vocational Discovery at Lipscomb University.

Faith & Life with Sara Hall

Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

Faith & Running: Going the Distance
Sara Hall is a professional distance runner.

YOGA OPPORTUNITIES

Embodied Prayer: Yoga @ SPD

Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the CFL

For more information, contact Amanda Berger at aberger@spdlic.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.

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.)

Grade 5 Gathering

Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 6 p.m.

Meets twice a month on a Wednesday at 6–7:30 p.m. Grade 5 Gathering 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.

Tuesday Story Time

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

Resumes on Tuesday, Jan. 20

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.

First Communion Preparation

Saturday, March 7 at 9–10 a.m.

Young people in grades 3, 4 and 5 who have not yet received their First Communion are invited to sign up for this special workshop, which teaches us about the importance of Holy Communion. The workshop is designed for both student and parent to attend together. Young people who attend the workshop will be invited to **receive their first communion on Sunday, March 15 the 10:45 a.m. service.** Register at spdlc.org/register.

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.

Women's Retreat

Friday, Feb. 6, 6:30–8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

One of our greatest spiritual tasks is learning to trust who God says we really are. *You are the beloved.*

Join women of all ages for a restorative weekend of connection, meaningful teaching, guided prayer practices, refreshing activities, and space to rest and be with God. This retreat is led by Jen Galley, Amanda Berger and Valerie Strand Patterson.

Together, we will explore:

What it means to be God's beloved—chosen, fully known, and deeply cherished.

How to begin to tend to the gap between head and heart—where truth moves from understanding to lived experience.

How living as the beloved impacts everyday life—our relationships, rhythms, and our partnership with God in the world.

Come as you are, and leave refreshed and more connected with God, with others, and with your own *belovedness*.

We begin Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome, general session and wrap up around 8 p.m. We resume Saturday morning at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. Snacks and Saturday lunch are provided. Optional yoga class on Saturday at 8 a.m. with Amanda Berger. Save \$15 with our early bird registration by signing up by Jan. 23.

Youth Winter Retreat

Wilderness Canoe Base—Grand Marias, Minn.

Feb. 13–16

Join us for a long weekend in the Boundary Waters! We'll spend some time with Amanda Berger's book "Right Here, Right Now; Spiritual Practices, Poems & Prayers for Young People," time outside playing broom ball, a sauna, and family style meals in the lodge! The cost is \$320 per person. Questions contact Olsen Pancoast at opancoast@spdlc.org. Register at spdlc.org/register.

The 7 Principles for Making Marriage Work(shop)

April 24–25

The Seven Principles Couples Program is a marriage enrichment and pre-marital prep workshop for couples based on the scientific research published in the book *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by Dr. John Gottman, with Nan Silver. No need to read the book before attending. All materials will be provided. The format includes lectures and private couple exercises. Participants will NOT share their personal problems in front of others

We will meet from 6:30–8:30 p.m. on Friday April 24 and gather again on Saturday from 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Snacks, coffee, and lunch will be provided. This workshop is for couples. You must attend with your partner. Register at spdlc.org/register.

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 iopc.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!**

Teddy Bear Needs Ministry

SPD Early Childhood Ministry sponsors the Teddy Bear Needs Ministry, an outreach ministry in our local community, to help young families who are in need. Donated items may be placed in the Pack 'n' Play crib on the lower level near the Child Care Center. Note, packages of diapers and pull-ups may be open. We are collecting the following items:

- Diapers—any size, but greatest need is for sizes 4 and 5
- Pull-ups—any size
- Packets of wipes

Hospitality Ministry: 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 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.

Prayer Shawl Monthly Gatherings

4th Thursdays at 1 p.m. Next Meeting: **Jan. 22**

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.

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@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 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.