



SPD New Member Orientation

Tuesday, May 5 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, May 17 at the 9:30 a.m. service.

MUSIC AT SPD

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. The concert is free and open to the public.

Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m.

MPLS (imPulse) presents "Sing Me a Story"

SPD's own Sam Grace is the director of the Twin Cities area vocal ensemble MPLS (imPulse). The Herald Music Series is pleased to present their concert in our sanctuary as the final event of this year's Herald series. The program which is centered around stories and children's literature will be particularly inviting for families. No tickets required; a free will offering will be received. Come and listen to this remarkable ensemble!

2026 Updated Church Directory

The updated church directories have arrived. You are welcome to pick up one at the Hospitality Desk on the upper level (Atrium). We ask that you only take one per household.

Help us keep the church records up to date. If you have a correction or update to the published information, please send the information to Nancy Bixby at nbixby@spdcl.org.

Register for Summer Programs

Check out our schedule of summer events and programs for all ages! You'll find plenty to keep you engaged with the St. Philip the Deacon faith community this summer. Visit our website to learn more. Register for summer events and activities at spdcl.org/register!

The 7 Principles for Making Marriage Work(shop)

Friday, April 24 –Saturday, April 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. workshop is for couples. You must attend with your partner. Register at spdcl.org/register.

Minnesota Twins vs. Toronto Blue Jays

Thursday, April 30, Depart SPD at 5:15 p.m.

Join us to watch the Minnesota Twins take on the Toronto Blue Jays at Target Field. Our seats are in the Legends Landing. The cost is \$47 per person, for your game ticket, all-inclusive ballpark fare (in the Legends Landing—which includes hotdogs, burgers, chicken tenders, popcorn, chips, soda, water, juice, and milk) and transportation.

Give Blood!

Blood Mobile at SPD—Tuesday, May 19

11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Memorial Blood Center is your community blood donation center. As a blood donor, you are a vital part of a team of individuals working together to save the lives of hospital patients in our area. That means the blood supply collected from our donors directly serves the needs of patients in our local community. An hour of your time can mean a lifetime to someone. Sign up to donate blood at mbcherohub.club.

Women's Spring Event

Wednesday, May 27 at 6:30 - 8 p.m.

The theme for the evening will focus on the *Art of Neighboring*. There will be a time of teaching, conversation, service, and worship. Women of all ages are invited. The cost is \$15 per person, and you may register at spdcl.org/register. Questions, contact Cindy Carlson at ccarlson@spdcl.org.

All-Congregation Band

Sunday, May 31 at 9:30 a.m.

Do you play an instrument? Perhaps it has been some time since you've played? Well, dust off that old saxophone—we're seeking musicians of all ages to help lead worship in our first All-Congregation Band. There is no age limit, although a basic proficiency and ability to read music is expected. All musicians should supply their own instrument. All band and orchestra instruments are welcome. To make the experience accessible for all, there are only two required rehearsals: Register at spdcl.org/register. If you have any questions, please contact Samuel Grace, Director of Music Ministry at sgrace@spdcl.org or 763-475-7142.

Rehearsals

Saturday, May 30 (2–3:30 p.m.)

Play for Worship:

Sunday, May 31 (Worship at 9:30 a.m.—Call time at 9 a.m.)

Minneapolis Area Synod WELCA Brunch

Saturday, May 9 at 9am

The Minneapolis Area Synod WELCA Board of Directors is planning a Mother Daughter Sister Friend Brunch for women of all ages. The keynote speakers will be Patty Wetterling and Joy Baker.

This event will be held at Norway House, located at 913 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis where there is free surface parking adjacent to Norway House and Mindekirken, The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church. The brunch will be prepared by ELMO Catering and each table will seat eight (8) guests. Tickets sold in advance will be \$32 for adults and \$15 for girls under age 12. A registration link will be made available

Questions? Mary Britt, President 612-245-0366 or Rebecca Sundquist, Event Coordinator 952-221-3400

Gardening @ SPD

SPD Gardening

Would you like to tend to the gardens and help with spring garden clean-up around our church building? We are hoping for a team of several people who will work together to tend to the gardens. Pastor Valerie at vstrand@spdcl.org.

The Giving Garden

Do you miss gardening but not the stooping down on your hands and knees? We have an option for you: help with our raised bed gardens! You can help to plant, tend and harvest vegetables that will be donated to the food pantry at Interfaith Outreach. Contact Trish Arndt at tarndt@spdcl.org.

Spring Garden Clean-up at Mission Nursing Home

Thursday, May 14 at 9–11 a.m.

Help spruce up the garden beds for the residents at Mission Nursing Home in Plymouth. It is located near Medicine Lake. You may register at spdcl.org/register. Questions, contact Renee Putnam at serve@spdcl.org.

KEEP CONNECTED AT SPD

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.

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.

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.

Supporting Our Service Members

We would like to prayerfully support your family and friends serving in the armed forces, especially at this time. If you would like someone to be included, please let us know.

Please email the following information to Pastor Valerie at vstrand@spdcl.org.

Name

Branch of service

Your relationship to the person

YOGA OPPORTUNITIES

Embodied Prayer: Yoga @ SPD

Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the CFL

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

Spring Chair Yoga Retreat

Thursday, May 7 at 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Join us at the MN Arboretum for a chair yoga practice on "Joy." Take time for yourself to enjoy a chair yoga practice, a walk in the arboretum, box lunch, tram ride, and time with friends. Cost: \$60 per person.

The retreat cost includes transportation, practice, box lunch, and tram ride.

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, Grade 5 Gathering, Confirmation and High School ministry.

Sunday School

Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 10:45 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, April 8 and 29 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. Contact Trish Arndt at tarndt@spdcl.org.

5th and 8th Grade Bridging Night

Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Parents, your 5th grader is moving into middle school, or your 8th grader is bridging into 9th grade. What's up next? Join us in Fellowship Hall to learn how to prepare for:

Middle school Confirmation (Begins in 6th grade)

9th grade Confirmation (Fall 2026)

Celebration of Passage (January 2027)

Affirmation of Baptism (January 2027)

High School Ministry/Koin at SPD

Questions?

High School Olsen Pancoast at opancoast@spdcl.org

Middle School Charlie Olson at colson@spdcl.org

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.

Growing Families

Have you recently found out you are expecting? Or are you adopting a child into your family? Let us share your joy and walk beside you as a faith community. At St. Philip the Deacon, we want to support you and your family as it grows and develops. Let us know your big news! [Get in touch with us online](#) or Contact: Kathy Hagedorn, Early Childhood and Children's Ministry at khagedorn@spdcl.org or 763-475-7138.

SPD Summer Programs and Activities

For more summer programs, pick up a *SPD Summer brochure* at the Hospitality Desk. There are programs and activities for all ages. **Registration is open at spdcl.org/register**

Vacation Bible School (Kids age 3–4th grade)

June 8–11 from 8:45–11:30 a.m. daily

Kids from age 3 through 4th grade are invited to enjoy four days of adventure-filled learning! This year's theme is, *Rainforest Falls—Exploring the Nature of God*. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. Each day will be filled with music, stories, experiments, learning, snacks, games, friends, laughter, and more! We will be both indoors and out. Cost is \$35 per student with a max of \$80 per family. Register at spdcl.org/register.

Adults and youth are also invited to [sign up to volunteer](#) as a helper or group leader! It's a fun way to participate, learn, and guide our kids in their faith journey.

Kids Adventure Week

July 20–23 from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. daily

A jam-packed week of outrageous adventures. Each day will have a theme. We will do some things at church, and take a bus to other adventures. Each day will include a devotion, friendships, adventure, new experiences, and all-around fun!

Children's Summer Music Camp

Aug. 10–13 from 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. daily

St. Philip the Deacon children's summer music camp, led by Celina Kobetitsch and Samuel Grace. Activities will include singing, games, musical guests and a field trip. The event will culminate with a talent show (family invited) on Thursday, August 13 prior to our closing lunch. Registration is open at spdcl.org/register.

St. John's Summer Retreat: Receiving the Gift of Sabbath

Thursday, June 18–Sunday, June 21

The theme for this year explores the practice of Sabbath and how we integrate this ancient practice into modern life. We will explore four elements of Sabbath-keeping: Stop, Rest, Delight and Worship. Held at St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Beautifully situated on Lake Sagatagan, there are trails for walking and beautiful art and architecture ready for exploring. This retreat provides a well-rounded experience of learning, spiritual practice, quiet time, worship and connection with others. Register at spdcl.org/register. The cost is \$250 per person.

Summer Fishing Retreat

June 25–29

Join SPD Outdoors for a time of faith, fellowship, fun and fishing at 10th annual Summer Fishing Retreat on Lake of the Woods. Registration is open, 10 of the 24 spots are filled. Questions, contact Pastor Mark Schmid at mschmid@spdcl.org.

SERVING OTHERS

Interfaith Outreach Food Pantry Needs

The food shelf is a valuable resource to families in our local community. 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.

Healthy snacks (granola bars, trail mix and dried fruit),
Baby food and formula, diapers, cooking oil, hearty soups, papers bags (for packing food shelf goods), **paper towels, toilet paper, toiletries, and feminine hygiene products.**

Also can also help our neighbors celebrate special traditions.

Passover, April: Matzo bread

Easter, April: Ham, potatoes, Easter candies

Eid al-Fitr, May: Dates

Collecting Used Eyeglasses

You can bring used eyeglasses 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!**

Hospitality Ministry: Funeral Reception Team

The ways to help with this ministry 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 if you would like to help with funeral receptions.

Habitat for Humanity Summer Build

Monday, Aug. 10–13

You are invited to join us as we use our gifts to make a difference in our community by participating in our 10th Annual Habitat for Humanity Summer Build.

Dates: Monday, Aug. 10–Thursday, Aug. 13

Time: 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (Wed.)

Location: Minnetonka Mills

Build Type: New build, single-family home

Please sign up for your volunteer day and complete our online waiver at: [Sign up on the Habitat website](#), or rb.gy/137qyv. Questions? Contact Pastor Mark Schmid at 763-475-7127 or mschmid@spdlc.org.

Habitat Lunch Crew

If you would like to help prepare and/or deliver lunch to the job site in Minnetonka, please contact Renee at serve@spdlc.org. There are selected menus for each day, you may also help provide homemade goodies for the crew.

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. 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 Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroads, Minnetonka, MN 55305.

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.