



From the Pastor

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

“Worthy are you [Christ] to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” (Rev 5:9-10, ESV)

May Theme: *Ethnically Diverse*

Demographically, the St. Philip neighborhood is one of the most ethnically diverse in the world. Our school reflects this diversity well, and our congregation is gradually following suit. As Christians who confess the universal work of salvation in Christ spoken of so powerfully in the verses above we rejoice in the work that The LORD is doing among us!

As I write these words I recall a recent conversation that I had with a fellow adoptive parent about how special and wonderful it is to live in a place where a multi-racial family is normal. I remember vividly when we first visited St. Philip three years ago, how at home we immediately felt here. I remember looking in the classrooms and seeing the different shades and thinking of Revelation 5, how heaven is populated by those “from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” This verse, and the neighborhood in which we are called to serve, remind us that *Christ* makes *his* family through graceful adoption. None of us were born into Christ’s family, the church. He *adopts* us—from every tribe and language and people and nation—making a heavenly family for Himself.

Thus, there is the present divine reality: in Christ we are a new creation where race and language and nationality are irrelevant; yet “this side of heaven” this diversity also brings its challenges.

This month I want speak of these challenges in terms of: 1) worship; 2) communication; and 3) service. I am asking *all members of St. Philip* to prayerfully consider an upcoming opportunity to recommit to our life together.

1. Worship

My 2010 vision statement that is posted outside my office says concerning worship:

With thanks to God, we will celebrate our Lutheran theological identity in: WORSHIP: 1) by preaching, teaching and music that rejoices in Christ’s forgiveness and the life-transforming means by which He promises it; and 2) by identifying and making faithful use of God’s related gifts in the congregation.

This vision is always before me. It is what is central to the Christian faith and what the Lord expects of us. In our very diverse neighborhood I am convinced that the best missiological approach for worship is not to try and do all languages and music, but to worship in our culture’s dominant language, English,

and do it well, making use—over time—of the Lutheran musical resources that are being developed all over the world.

As for the second part of the vision—making use of congregational gifts—I am thankful for the progress we have made this year that hand bells and choirs are again ringing and singing. We are planning to invest in further professional development and training for our church musicians so that we can continue this growth. This training, and the basic salary and benefit infrastructure that makes it possible, needs congregational support. More about this further on...

2. Communication

You, the people of St. Philip, need to know what is going on. Our records need to be up-to-date. The various meetings and auxiliaries and services and servant-events need to be publicized. You need to be able to call in on the phone, write a letter or email message and get a reasonably quick reply. The web site needs regular attention, as this is now the chief means by which most people get their information. You need a worship bulletin that is clear and succinct and accurate.

I do not think we can achieve the above by continuing to ask the school secretary to do two jobs. She has labored hard for us and deserves many thanks, but it is too much for one person to do well and lead a balanced life. While there will never be another “Miss Edna,” as I approach my third anniversary at St. Philip I can see how very, very helpful it would be to have at least a part-time administrative assistant for the church. Of course, we can continue on the present path, and we’ll do fine if this has to be, but having reflected a great deal, I think it would be better for both church and school if the people of the congregation can find a way to support a part-time church secretary. More about this, too, further on...

3. Service

We have many, many dedicated lay leaders and staff at St. Philip, many gifts that are being used in service to the community. There are also many other ways that we can serve and really benefit the people in our neighborhood, many ways we can reach out with the love of Christ that is in us. There is, for example, a real need for faithful English as a Second Language (ESL) training and immigrant assimilation assistance. Nationally, Lutherans do this very well and resources are available to us, but for many years—as I have written before—we have not participated in the larger work of our church body by returning first-fruits gifts to the district and synod.

These first-fruits gift to our denomination, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, also support efforts like The Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Did you know that the LCMS is an international leader in a massive effort to stamp out life-denying malaria? Did you know that LCMS World Relief and Human Care does some of the best work in the world with disaster response? Did you know that the African and Asian churches are growing dramatically and that they yearn for assistance with the theological and personnel resources that arise from their growth? In addition, I have brother pastors in our nearly war-torn south side of Chicago that are doing courageous and faithful work. We could participate in all of this!!! And we are planning to propose a budget in June that does just that.

Our proposal will be in this first year of renewed commitment to the work of the larger church, to return at least a 3% first-fruits offering. That means 3% right off the top, before anything else. That is what a Biblical first-fruits offering is. I hope and pray, actually, that it will be more than that, and in time I know it will be, but we have to start somewhere.

I estimate that for an average of an additional \$5 per person per Sunday we can return a 3% first-fruits offering that helps support the work of the larger work and the district work that is so helpful to us, fund our present salary and benefit packages for our church workers, and hire a part-time church secretary.

This May 20th we will return at St. Philip to the practice of having a “Commitment Sunday,” and your commitment will determine whether we will be able to do this. You will receive a special invitation from me early in May about this. I hope you will begin prayerfully considering this now...

By His blood Christ ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He has made us a kingdom and priests to our God. As His priests we offer up prayers on behalf of our very diverse neighborhood, and as kings in Christ we serve. I am thankful for the opportunity to pray and serve with you and I am excited about the opportunities ahead.

Yours in Christ,



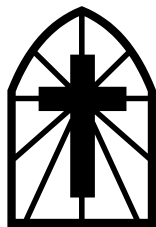
Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell
Monday of Easter 2 (16 April, A.D. 2012)

Commitment Sunday

May 20, 2012

10:00 a.m.

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (1 Cor 4:1-2, ESV)



Highlights of the Board of Directors Meeting, March 19, 2012

President Paker called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. A reading and a prayer from Pastor O'Donnell followed.

Pastor's Report: In the area of Pastoral Acts, during the period from Feb. 19 through March 18, Pastor O'Donnell reported that he made 13 shut-in and hospital visits, and took part in 12 special meetings. He provided an update on preparations for Lent and Easter, and activities in the areas of Evangelism and Discipleship.

Treasurer's Report: Rick Oppermann presented his financial reports for the month of February. Income for the month was about \$8,700 below expenses.

Commission on Discipleship: Dean Westmeyer reported that letters are being sent to some members of St. Philip who, according to our records, have not communed for several years, asking about their interest in retaining their membership. 2012 weekly envelope packs have been sent to persons who did not pick them up after Sunday services. Ads for St. Philip have begun appearing in the *Eintracht*, a weekly local German-language newspaper. A new list of *Lutheran Witness* subscribers has been sent to Concordia Publishing House.

Commission on Evangelism: Connie Brink reported that work on the new church brochure should soon be completed. Pastor O'Donnell, with help from the junior youth group, is continuing a series of Wednesday Evangelism Walks throughout the St. Philip community. Plans are going forward for a "Parenting in the Pew" workshop on April 21.

Commission on Education: Karen Huston reported that the introduction of Mr. Charles Asche as Principal-designate of the elementary school had gone well, and that Mr. Asche had been able to meet some of the school families. Plans are underway to market our new programs, including visits to nearby churches that do not have schools, local chambers of commerce, and in-home coffee hours. Several families and individuals are contributing money toward sponsoring a summer T-ball team in the Warren Park Youth Baseball League.

Commission on Property: Brian Tennis reported that new drywall had been put in place under the wash sinks in the church kitchen and new water meters installed in the church and parsonage (now awaiting city testing). The gas company has worked on the main gas lines on Bryn Mawr. The roof of the ECC storage shed needs repair after high winds blew some of the shingles off.

In the area of New Business, Rick Oppermann provided an update regarding a request from the organization "Sanctuary Media Ministry" to use space in one of the rooms of the school basement.

President Paker presented a timeline for budget requests for the 2012-13 budget year and reports needed for the June mid-year voter's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 with prayer by Pastor O'Donnell.

Commission on Property

May is just about the prettiest month of the year in my opinion. We see everything reborn and fresh, the flowers are blooming and we are looking ahead to summer and vacations. We have celebrated Easter and God's promise to us, and are refreshed and revived in our faith and commitments.

I want to thank everyone who showed up and helped with the St. Philip grounds clean-up that took place on March 31st. We were able to accomplish quite a lot and the grounds look very nice. I hope everyone enjoyed the cookout we had afterwards. I would also like to remind everyone that anyone can be involved in the upkeep of our grounds, whether it is mowing, trimming, weeding, or just picking up debris when you see it. If you can spare a few hours this summer, please contact myself, Lynn Walsh or Claudia Franz. Your help would be greatly appreciated. I want to thank Pastor, Dave and Tanner O'Connor again for handling the mowing so far. Great Job!

Final bids are coming shortly (or may have arrived by the time you are reading this) for the masonry repairs that are needed for the buildings here at St. Philip. Projected expenses are in the \$40,000.00 range. This may seem expensive but I think it is quite reasonable considering the amount of work and the extent of the repairs that are necessary. I prayerfully ask that the congregation support this undertaking and to commit ourselves and our resources to bring these repairs to completion. What kind of stewards would we be, of the gifts that God has given us, if we allow the buildings to crumble around us? I think of what sacrifices and the commitment our founders and subsequent generations made to make St. Philip what it is today; can we do any less?

Final Bids are also in on the sewer check valve and flood prevention system for the church and parsonage. Projected expense is \$19,000.00. For those unaware of the situation, due to changes in the storm-sewer system made by the city of Chicago, we have experienced flooding issues any time we have heavy rains. We all see the results of the flooding each time we enter Memorial Hall. Pastor has also experienced several floods in the parsonage basement. I ask the congregation, as with the masonry repairs, that we commit to this system to prevent further flooding.

In closing, we have a challenge ahead of us and as my former pastor once told me, God provides for the faithful to ensure that the Gospel can be shared to all. He also told me that the congregation can accomplish anything with the help of God. I believe this to be true and look forward to bringing these two very important repairs to completion. I ask everyone to prayerfully consider what each can do to help me in this process.

Yours in Christ,
Brian / Commission on Property

PS. We have a wonderful way here at St. Philip to remember a loved one, to recognize a personal milestone, or just a way to say thank you to the Lord for the blessings he continues to shower on us. That is the paver program. For a small fee we still have hundreds of sidewalk pavers available for inscriptions and the entire proceeds go directly to St. Philip for restoration and repairs. What a great way to say something special and for it to become a permanent part of St. Philip. I would like to get another batch of these pavers ready for lettering and would like to get the orders in place so that all the pavers can be set around June 1st. I encourage anyone interested to get their orders in soon so these can be done in a timely manner. Please see Rick Oppermann or stop by the school office to pick up an order form.

Commission on Worship Report

Under the leadership of a new director, Mr. David O'Connor, the Commission on Worship is in the process of reorganization. At the present time, Dave has only one commission member, Joseph Eipl, assisting him, and would welcome volunteers to help carry out the commission's responsibilities.

The Commission on Worship is charged with responsibility for the planning of our worship services, which includes finding and scheduling persons to fill the roles of communion assistants, lectors, ushers, greeters, and nursery attendants. Working with the pastor and minister of music, they seek to lead members of the congregation in the deepening of their personal worship experience. It is a challenging responsibility and offers a person an opportunity to be of service to their Lord as well as to St. Philip. Please consider volunteering!



NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL

At the time of this writing our students finished the third quarter and have begun their final quarter for this school year. My how time flies! Congratulations to the following students who achieved ***Honor Roll /Honorable Mention*** status for the first quarter:

4th grade Honor Roll: Callista Hansen, Marcus Zinke

Honorable Mention: Iannis Hunter

5th grade Honor Roll: Samantha Arce, David Arkema, Matthew Carreon, Veronika Kral, Nikolai Waypa

Honorable Mention: Carmina Boyle, Steffanie Lee, John McDonough

6th grade Honor Roll: Abraham Ahn, David Catalan, Olivia Cesena, Lauren Huston, Aidan O'Donnell, Ashley O'Neill, Gary Tinder, Giovanna Ventresca

Honorable Mention: Cielo Jones, Samuel Kim, Olivia Ocana

7th grade Honor Roll: Katie Brink, Jessa Gaviola, Jessie Surrige, Jack Zinke
Honorable Mention: Anthony Cesena, Yeo-Myeong Kim, Allison McDonough

8th grade Honor Roll: Nebojsa Arnautovic, Joshua Fuder, Sarah Joseph, Alexis Jovanovic, Jana Redzovic, Nicole Sharp, Hannah Tinder
Honorable Mention: Mirko Pecanac

Eighth graders prepare for Washington D.C. trip

Twelve students and chaperones, Mr. and Mrs. Tennis, leave May 11 for an exciting three-day trip to discover the history and workings of the United States government system. The itinerary includes tours of the memorials, Holocaust Museum, Capitol Hill, National Archives, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian museums, and Mount Vernon. We depart O'Hare *very* early in the morning on Friday and return late on Sunday. The students and chaperones definitely get their exercise on this trip in addition to learning about Washington D.C. Please pray for the health and safety of our students and chaperones on this trip.

School Registration

Registration is underway for the 2012-2013 school year. Tell friends, neighbors, and coworkers to check out the exciting things planned for next school year. St. Philip school families receive a referral discount when they tell someone about St. Philip and the new family enrolls in the program. Contact the school office for more information.

School Volunteer Appreciation

A Volunteer Appreciation gathering was held on April 25 to say "thank you" to the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to help our school. Our staff greatly appreciates the countless ways our volunteers give back to our school!

Alumni in the News

St. Philip recently received word that Abigail Moriarty, a freshmen at Ohio State University, has been named to the Dean's List. This is her second time on the Dean's List.

Alyssa Joseph who attends Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin made the Dean's List. She was also named one of seven outstanding freshmen. Alyssa had the honor of serving as a flag bearer during the ceremony for the outgoing President of Carthage.

Congratulations to these girls for their fine accomplishments.

In Christ's service,

Donna Tennis



ON A MAY DAY

Do you see this date -- May 10th? This date, May 10th, 1953, was an important day for Saint Philip. It was the 60th year in her history. On that day the dedication of the school and parish activities building took place. The initial cost of the building was \$275,000. and included 5 classrooms, library, gymnasium and general administrative offices. The basement included a kitchenette, shower and locker rooms, boiler room with storage facilities, and a lunch room. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Ekroth, Martarano and Ekroth.

The Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Victor C. Rickman, presided at the dedication. The Rev. Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, then Director of Public Relations for The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and, subsequently the speaker on The Lutheran Hour for a number of years, gave the dedicatory address. The cornerstone had been placed on September 28, 1952.

By 1957, the new building became too small and classes were once again conducted in the Church building. In 1962, new classrooms and offices were added to the Parish Activities Building to replace those being used in the Church building proper.

On June 14, 1981, by resolution of The Lutheran Church of Saint Philip, “the Parish Activities Building will now be known as “The Rev. Dr. Victor C. Rickman Parish Activities Center” in remembrance of his ministry among us at this place in God’s Kingdom.” This was written in the Dedication Bulletin for that day. When you are in the Parish Activities Center, take note of the Dedication Plaque on the wall in the entrance hallway.

As you enter the Parish Activities Center, you will also see the stained-glass window facing the East. It carries as its central theme the outline of a cross on which there is a shield holding aloft the symbol of the Name of Jesus. At the foot of the cross is the symbol of Saint Philip – the barley loaves and the fishes from the story of the Feeding of the 5,000.

On either side of the cross are the angels, symbolic of knowledge and service -- great elements of Christian education. The Angel of Knowledge holds the lamp from which the light is shed in the form of a cross. The Angel of Service holds the flagon and basin as a symbol of our Lord’s service to His disciples in foot-washing.

The 4 corners of the window are occupied by beautiful representations of the 4 Evangelists. Clock-wise from the lower left is St. Matthew -- in the form of a winged man; in the upper left is St. Mark in the form of a winged lion; in the upper right is the symbol of St. Luke in the form of a winged ox; in the lower right is the symbol of St. John in the form of an eagle. The background is in a free pattern to conform to the structural lines of this window.

This window was dedicated to the Glory of God, in a special dedication, on September 30, 1956. It was given in Memory of 17 Saints, who now know their Lord face-to-face, and, with gifts of love from the school children of Saint Philip, along with the then Mother’s Club and Walther Leagues of Saint Philip. Do spend some time to stop, look and appreciate the beauty of this stained-glass window.



May, 2012, Sunday Service Assistants

Greeters:

May 6 – Andrew & Marcia Friddle
May 13 – Jim & Carolyn Tonkinson
May 20 – Antoine & Gerda Ily
May 27 – Brian & Donna Tennis

Nursery:

May 6 – Jim & Karen Huston
May 13 – Karen Roberts & Ashley Krysic
May 20 – Carrie O’Donnell & Linsey Krakowka
May 27 – Matthew & Kelley Schau

Lector:

May 6 – Caryl Eipl
May 13 – Brian Tennis
May 20 – Andrew Friddle
May 27 – Gloria Messerschmidt

Communion Assistants:

May 6 – David O’Connor & Rick Oppermann
May 13 – Chris Amundson & Brian Tennis
May 20 – Thom Paker & Brad Meincke
May 27 – David O’Connor & Rick Oppermann

Deacons & Ushers:

May 6 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
David Kral
Art Lau
May 13 – Dean Westmeyer (Deacon)
Art Lau
Joe Eipl
May 20 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
Johann Huprich
Dean Westmeyer
May 27 – Art Lau (Deacon)
Darlyn Murphy
Tanner O’Connor



Did God Make You?

A little girl sat on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she'd reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek thoughtfully.

Finally, she spoke, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered. "God made me a long time ago."

"Did God make me, too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he answered. "God made you just a little while ago."

She touched his face again, and then her own.

"He's getting better at it, isn't He?" she asked.

Pray for Me!

One Sunday a young boy was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew, but were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the narthex, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"