



Our Mission

Growing, Serving, Sharing Christ

Saint Philip Lutheran

Church and School

2500 WEST BRYN MAWR AVENUE - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

Church & School 773.561.9830

FAX 773.561.9831

Early Childhood Center 773.561.7566

FAX 773.561.3048

www.stphiliplutheran.com

The Pastor's Page

Pastor Tom Engel

Something Unspectacular

An empty tomb. Soldiers were ordered to seal the entrance, but the seal had been broken. Running to the tomb, Peter sees the heavy stone that has been rolled aside. He bends down, and walking into the tomb, he does not see Jesus' body.



The women have said, "He is risen!" They have seen Jesus alive. Does not seeing Jesus' body in the tomb verify what the women have said?

Peter would wrestle with this news about Jesus' resurrection from the dead all day long. Jesus did talk about rising on the third day. But did it really happen?

That evening as Peter and the other disciples were together in the upper room, Jesus came and appeared to them, and they came to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead, even Thomas who had so much doubt has come to believe.



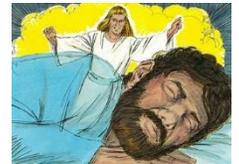
Other than the first twelve disciples, Jesus had more disciples and followers like the women who had come to the tomb. Two of these disciples were leaving Jerusalem and were on their way to Emmaus on that first Easter day.

Like Peter, they, too, wondered about what the women had said about Jesus' resurrection. For some unknown reason, they were not able to see that it was Jesus who was walking along with them.

Jesus went through what the Scripture and the prophets had said about his death and resurrection. When they sat down for a meal, they recognized Jesus, and they came to believe also that Jesus had risen from the dead.

If I can say, there seems to be a pattern when it comes to people's reaction to the news about Jesus as Lord and Savior of the world.

When an angel came to tell Mary that she would have a child although she was a virgin, she did not know how it could be. Joseph needed to be persuaded in a dream to take Mary to be his wife and to be the earthly father of Jesus. The shepherds were struck with fear when an angel came to them to tell them to go to Bethlehem to see their new-born Savior.



A young poor girl, a carpenter, shepherds, a little town, a stable, a manger, and then Nazareth, a small place where nothing really happened of any importance, but it is where Jesus grew up.

If we look at the different parts of Jesus' life, we see nothing spectacular. To be sure that I am clear here, I mean as far as the world sees spectacular. For someone who is the King of Kings and Lord of all, there is nothing here that has striking effects that catch our attention.

Fisherman, a locust-eating prophet, a donkey, bread, sandals and dusty roads, no place to call home, washing of feet, mocked, beaten, whipped, a crown-not of gold-but of thorns, and lastly, nails and a cross.

When John the Baptist announced Jesus to the world, he said, “Look the Lamb of God, who has come to take away the sins of the world.”

He did not say, “The Lion of God.” Or he did not say, “The General who has come to lead an army?” John said that Jesus was a “Lamb.”

How can a “lamb” do anything to save and protect people from harm? How can a “lamb” do anything but to have it let others lead it to the slaughter?

But letting others take this “Lamb” to its death is exactly what God had planned from the beginning back when humans first had fallen into sin. Before Jesus came to earth, lambs were sacrificed and their blood covered the sins of the people.



Jesus was the final sacrifice, and his blood would cover the sins of all people forever. Here again, we are seeing something that is unspectacular when it comes to fighting a battle and the gaining of a victory over the enemy.

When it came to the final battle against sin, Satan, and eternal death, Jesus was passive.

Thinking in a strategic way when it comes to fighting an enemy, he did not put up much of a fight. Jesus did not call up an army; he did not raise up a sword; he did not wrestle with the temple guards when he was seized in the Garden of Gethsemane; he hardly said a word before those who accused him of claims that deserved the penalty of death.



On the cross, Jesus did speak seven times. One of those times gets to the heart about why Jesus went to the cross. In a loud voice he cried out to God the Father, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

It was at this point that God the Father turned His back on His own Son and left him to die on the cross and suffer for all the sins of the world.

Jesus took the punishment that we deserve for our sins. Then, just before he would take his last breath, Jesus said, “It is finished.” At that moment, the battle between Jesus and sin, Satan, and eternal death was over.

To the onlooker and even from the disciples’ perspective, it seemed that Jesus had lost this battle.

But Jesus had won, and we know for sure that he was victorious when he rose on the third day. Jesus was alive, again.

For those who believe in this good news, it is the most glorious news. We know that in Jesus and with all that he has done for us that we do not have to fear anything ever again.

Jesus’ death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life is the center of our lives and runs through every part of us. We can rejoice everyday because each day is a day of salvation.

Too many people get tripped up by this simple but awesome truth of the Gospel. People struggle with Jesus because most of what he did was far from spectacular.

Yes, he did do miracles to show that he was from God the Father, but these miracles were not enough for the people. For as much time that the disciples spent with Jesus, they forgot about the calming of the storm, the feeding of the five thousand, and the raising of Lazarus.

For something to be spectacular in these high tech days, it must be impressive with some kind of big bang and bright flashing lights, and most of all, it must have immediate effects on what we want. It must meet and satisfy our human desires.

Jesus does satisfy but in unspectacular ways that are not of this world because, most of all, he had come to satisfy our spiritual needs.

A kingdom, not of castles, but of righteousness. Not riches of gold and silver, but rich in the blessings of God. Not perfection in body, but grace that is sufficient. Not the power of technological advances, but the power of divine love and care.



To the world, because Jesus is not of the world, many people will find Jesus to be something unspectacular. But to people of faith, Jesus is more than spectacular, for in Christ Jesus God comes and brings us everything of heaven and earth.

In baptism, we have water that with the Word changes us forever. We are now children of God and have His constant love. And in bread and wine with the words, “This is my body,” and “This is my blood,” we have forgiveness of sin and the assurance that Christ lives in us.

A devotion, a prayer, sitting and reading the Bible in some quiet moments. Once again, speaking from a worldly viewpoint, nothing spectacular here.

But coming from faith, how God comes to us in His “unspectacular” ways brings everything to us from all of heaven and earth that fulfills our every need in every circumstance.

Comfort and joy. Peace that is beyond all human understanding. Love and care. Mercy and grace.

And nothing that happens in this world or in our lives can take us away from these things from God in Christ Jesus.

Just how spectacular is that?



A Message from the President

Greetings Everyone,

I pray that all of you are continuing to stay safe. Being six weeks into the shelter at home order has been trying on everyone, and with the continued order to remain in effect for another four weeks puts additional stress and concerns for all of us. Take comfort in the knowledge that God is with us through this time and all things work together for good and to the glory of God.



It saddens me to think that during this time of shelter at home that those who have lost loved ones have been unable to mourn as we would traditionally have done. Traditional services being removed from our grieving process have left some people feeling empty to the closure of the lives of their loved ones. This is truly unfortunate, but we can look forward to the day that we can rejoice and celebrate as we come together again to remember those who have passed. Since my last article and with deep sadness I have to report that St. Philip has experienced the passing of long time members Dean Westmeyer and Thomas Iverson. I would ask that you

would pray for their families. I also want to ask you to pray for Mrs. Kelly Shau and her family, our 3rd and 4th grade teacher, whose mother has also just passed. These are such emotional times for all those affected and it is truly tragic that this pandemic has caused such isolation for families to remember their loved ones.

I want to thank all of you who have sent in pictures of themselves as I have made cardboard cut outs to place in the pews with your pictures so Pastor has an audience for Sunday mornings. If you would like to send me a picture (take a good selfie of a front on facial picture) to be included please send it to me at btennis@dohservices.com. As always, I encourage you to tune in to Facebook Live as our regular morning worship continues to be broadcasted at our normal time of 10:00 am. You can always go to the St. Philip website and view the services there also. Again, I look forward to the time as this crisis will pass and we can all be together again physically in worship.



I also want to thank all our teachers as they continue with e-learning with all our students. I see what efforts have to take place by observing Mrs. Tennis and what she does to continue the learning process and contact with her students. I am sure all of our staff are doing likewise. I thank all the school parents for their continued support and involvement with this process.

My last thank you goes out to all the members of the congregation for your continued support of the ministry here at St. Philip. Continue to pray for one another. Continue to support the ministry with your offerings. Continue to remain safe as we will get through this. Remember always that God is with us.

Yours in Christ,
Brian Tennis / Chairman



Giving Is a Win – Win

May -- A Step Into Saint Philip History

By Gloria Messerschmidt

May 10, 1953 -- an important day in the life of Saint Philip. On that day, the School building (the Parish Activities Center) was dedicated in a special Worship Service at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Rev. Dr. Victor C. Rickman, Pastor, was the Liturgist. The Preacher at the Service was The Rev. Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffman, long time Speaker on The Lutheran Hour. Special music was provided by the Saint Philip Mixed Choir and Children's Choirs. Refreshments were served by the Ladies Aid, Mother's Club and Lydia Guild, across the street in Memorial Hall (Church Basement).

May 10, 1981 -- In the 10:00 A.M. Worship Service, The Rev. Robert P. Rickman was installed as the 4th Pastor of Saint Philip. Pastor Rickman is now the Pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Delavan, Wisconsin.

May 26, 1929 -- the last Sunday in May. On that day the last Worship Service was held in the 1st Church building of Saint Philip. It was located at the corner of Lawrence and Oakley Avenues. Saint Philip had long contemplated the sale of this property because "the noise of traffic was quite disturbing during the Services." The general idea was to relocate somewhere in the same vicinity, keeping in mind that the majority of the members lived not far from Church. As written in the 50th Anniversary Book of Saint Philip (1943), "However, no suitable location could be found anywhere near the site of the old Church. Since the current neighborhood was becoming commercialized very quickly, it was determined to move further North into a growing residential section." In 1929, the Northern Athletic Club purchased the old site and our new Church was erected at Bryn Mawr and Campbell Avenues, with dedication on July 15, 1929.

May 29, 1988 -- The original 2 octave set of Schulmerick Handbells was dedicated. The gift included 25 bells, carrying cases and portable tables. This gift was given by Mr. Carl Buehl, a long-time active member of Saint Philip, in Memory of his daughter, Norma Jean (Buehl) Ceislewicz. Norma Jean transferred to Saint Philip's Parish School from the Parish School of Saint Luke, when Saint Philip opened her school doors in 1937. She was a member of the 1st graduating class from Saint Philip in June 1942. The class had 5 students -- 4 boys and 1 girl.

God is the greatest giver, and, because we are made in His image, we were created to give. Giving is a win – win activity. We as givers are blessed, the recipients of our gifts are blessed, and God is glorified. God gave us what we needed the most, a Savior, and He keeps on giving.

The giver is blessed.

As sinful people, we would rather keep what we have rather than to give. We become attached to the stuff of the world, and we seek comfort and security in the things of the world. Money and possessions become our treasure. Sinful hearts love wealth. Left to ourselves, we can never put the world in its proper place. However, in Christ and by the power of the Gospel, we have a new treasure, a true treasure.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, the love of the world can be expelled from our hearts and be replaced by Christ.



God uses giving to help direct our hearts to Him and away from the love of the world. Faithful and generous giving is evidence that God is first in our lives. In giving, we break the grip that this world has on us. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Our hearts will dwell on what we treasure the most. When we give, our hearts will follow where we give our money.

We don't give to be blessed, but God's Word clearly tells us that through our faithful generosity God will bless us. Several verses in Scripture promise us God's abundance when we honor Him through our giving. (Proverbs 3:10; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38). We are certain of His spiritual blessings and possibly material blessings.



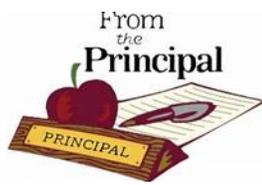
A constant theme throughout God's Word is that we are to help those in need. We can give individually and collectively as churches to improve the conditions of the needy. We are blessed so can be a blessing to others.

Our giving supports the mission and ministry of our church, our school, our Synod, our district, our seminaries, and other Christian organizations that spread the Gospel.

Through our giving God is glorified.

The Apostle Paul wrote "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11). When we give God our first and best, He is honored.

Giving is truly a win – win activity. May God help us all make giving an intentional part of our Christian journey.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – April 2020

St. Philip Lutheran School + Chicago, Illinois

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalms 118:24



When I taught Preschool, singing “This is the Day” would be part of our opening during Jesus Time. We would begin by singing this song and then say the Invocation (We make our beginning in the name of God, the

Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit) using hand motions. Then I would make a comment about the weather by saying, “God made a rainy day today, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Even though I am not teaching preschool this year, I still often use that song if I lead chapel. For me, that Psalm is a reminder to take notice and always rejoice and be glad in the day.

I have always been an early riser and even now that I am not regularly going into school each day to teach, my routine has remained the same even without an alarm clock. One thing I have noticed more is the birds chirping, even at 4:00 a.m. I have noticed not only do they chirp at 4:00 a.m., but all throughout the day. Now, I am sure that pre-COVID-19, the birds were chirping throughout the day, but I did not really notice.

What I do notice now is that sights and sounds are more predominant. What else have I noticed? The many signs of spring are more alive to me this year. The greens are brighter, and the colors of flowers blooming are richer. I also notice the sounds of many lawn mowers around me during the day as the grass has been growing with all the rain we have had as of late.



God has given me this time of staying-at-home and slowing things down, for me to take notice. I notice and relish the time that

Brian and I have to make and eat dinner at home on a regular basis. We now have the time to plan and prepare meals. This is something I appreciate.

I notice how much people give of themselves in times of crisis, especially the medical care workers, first responders, and all those who work so that the rest of us can shop for food and supplies. I notice how people, young and old, are pulling together to help one another through this very challenging time. I notice how much our school students, families, and teachers have embraced this time to continue to move forward to grow, serve, and share Christ!

God has given me this time to stop, slow down and take notice. I rejoice in this renewed sense of wonder and am glad that I can relish in His day and be glad in it. This is the day the Lord has made; I encourage you to take notice!

E-Learning Update

Students, parents, and teachers seemed to have settled in to learning at home. While we miss the in-person contact with each other, we have found ways to “see” one another. Zoom meetings and Google hangouts are the platforms for visual contact. Teachers and students meet weekly via these platforms. Preschoolers enjoy the time to hear Miss Maanum read stories. Even parents join in their storytime. Kindergarten, First, and Second graders have had several guests join their meetings including Mrs. Schau for music, Pastor, Miss Claudia, the Spanish teacher, and the Easter bunny. Fourth and fifth graders meet regularly for small groups and lunch chats. Our 6th-8th graders also meet for lunch chats and to solve brain puzzles and in smaller groups.



Thank you to all of our families for working with their children and supporting this learning process. We realize we have asked a great deal of our families in this partnership of student, family, and St. Philip. We are so very grateful! Thank you to the staff for creatively reaching out to the students so they can continue to



learn. They are constantly learning new ways to deliver instruction remotely and are in contact with the students and families regularly. Thank you to our congregation for your continued support

through prayers and your offerings.

Fellowship Continues

Even though we cannot get together in person, we can still get together virtually. That is what we did during our first BINGO night in April. School and congregation members joined the fun. We had over 20 families represented. This was a lot of fun with many prizes awarded. We plan to host more virtual events in the future. Continue to follow our Facebook page and website for future events.



Girl Scouts
By Gigi Hansen

Dear family and friends-

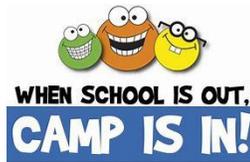
During this difficult time, our Girl Scout troops from St. Philip would like to donate cookies to First Responders. We need your help. Please donate \$5- or more to donate a box of cookies. Please give cash or check to your Girl Scout or you can donate via ZELLE pay to switzer99@att.net

Our Girl Scout troop will deliver the cookies to Norwegian American Hospital Emergency Room and hospital staff.

Thank you for your help and support. Girl Scout troops 21244, 20865, 21231

Create Academy at St. Philip

People have been asking about summer camp at St. Philip. We have been thinking ahead and how the health situation will impact our summer camp. We continue to plan for a summer of "creative" fun. More information will come in the near future, as we continue to adhere to the guidelines set forth by the government and work on contingency plans.



Now Enrolling for 2020-2021

We ask that you continue to spread the word about St. Philip. Whether we are in-person learning or learning virtually, we are committed to our mission of "Growing, Serving, Sharing Christ" and we want people to know. Please tell others about St. Philip. For more information, contact Mrs. Bateman, our Marketing/Admissions Director (abateman@stphiliplutheran.com).



In closing, St. Philip remains committed to our mission of Growing, Serving, Sharing Christ. I thank and pray for your continued support of our programs at St. Philip. May you take notice of the day God has made, and rejoice and be glad in it.

In Christ,

Donna Tennis

Principal



St. Philip Girl Scouts have been keeping busy! Daisies and Brownies received a kit for our last meeting. The kit included some spring goodies and treats. The kit also included things needed to plant at home and decorate a pot. Brownie Michelle Chavez shows off her pot being "patient" waiting for her impatient sprouts! Daisy Sophie Pham shows off her planting kit and her spring goody bag from Girl Scouts!!





Juniors and Cadettes were busy too. Our last meeting we made Trefoil Pudding Cups. These are Cadette Jessica Hader's pudding cups. The green plate shows Cadette Hannah Schaus work of art. Seeing there is only one left, I think they went over well at the Schau house!!!

Our Seniors and Ambassadors have been busy planning a summer camping trip for daisies and brownies. They also decided a way to help promote some smiles and thank our First Responders. See the video below that they created. Please help them achieve their goal of donating cookies to the staff of Norwegian American Hospital.

If you have any questions please contact Gigi Hansen - mgghansen@comcast.net or 312-401-2658. Blessings and Prayers of love and safety to all, Gigi Hansen



By Barb Uber

The Lydia Guild and Senior Book Buddies wish all good health.

No plans have been made for May as we can not gather in groups and the school is closed. We are looking forward to a busy September.



May Birthdays

- 2 – Derek Seyferth
- 8 – Marti Gartner
- 11 – Karlene Joseph
- 17 – Ryan Rattinger
- 18 – Kendra Strohmayer
- 19 – Angela Kelo
- 20 – Peter Nosko
- 21 – Gloria Messerschmidt
- 26 – Megan Leavitt
- 28 – Tina Rattinger
- 29 – Marcia Friddle



My apologies if I have missed your birthday. Please send a text to 773-315-6201 or email me at Lcarey214@yahoo.com. Give me your name and date of birth and I will gladly add you to our list!

