



Our Mission

Growing, Serving, Sharing Christ

Saint Philip Lutheran

Church and School

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The Pastor's Page

Pastor Tom Engel

Read: 1 John 2: 12-17 EVS

12 I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.
13 I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.
I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.
14 I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

Do Not Love the World

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life[a]—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Psalm 53 EVS

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity;
there is none who does good.
2 God looks down from heaven
on the children of man
to see if there are any who understand,[b]
who seek after God.

together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.

4 Have those who work evil no knowledge,
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon God?

5 There they are, in great terror,
where there is no terror!

For God scatters the bones of him who encamps against you;
you put them to shame, for God has rejected them.

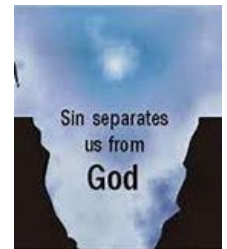
6 Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When God restores the fortunes of his people,
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2: 17

The World: Love It or Leave It?

As Christians looking at the world, we can look at it in two ways. In one way, the world is separated from the will of God. Looking at the long past of history and all the way up to recent events, we see that the world always has had war, atrocities, and evil of every kind.





In another way, we love the world and every person on this planet. This is the world that God has made, and with all its faults, it shows God's glory. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, we want God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Sin ruins this world, and it will cause this world to pass away. But with each day passing, we get closer to the end when Jesus will come again and bring this old disjointed world back together into the perfection God meant it to be.

Until that day we live in this world and see the results of sin, but we can by faith do the will of God and live in the confident hope that we will live eternally with God in heaven, His perfect world.

Lord, we live in a sinful world, but always help us to live doing only your will, so we may one day live forever with you. Amen.

**Minutes of the Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting,
July 26th 2020**

**The Lutheran Church of Saint Philip
2500 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this Voters' Meeting was postponed, from June 28th to July 26th, to allow more time to study health department guidance and plan for the school year.

07/26/2020 – In the sanctuary of St. Philip Lutheran Church, after the worship service

Items Provided to the Voters Prior to the Meeting: A copy of the proposed 2020-2021 budget for review, and a Zoom meeting invitation for those who could not attend the Voter's Meeting in person.

10:32 a.m. Meeting began with prayer.

Presentation of the Proposed Budget: President Brian Tennis presented the proposed budget and advised that the questions, which had come in electronically, had been answered. The proposed budget is based on an expected enrollment similar to that of the past school year. It takes into account a lower amount of donations received from organizations using St. Philip facilities, due to reduced use because of the Coronavirus. A slight deficit, of less than \$1K, is anticipated. After allowing for further questions, multiple voters made the motion to approve the proposed budget as presented. The motion

was seconded and was passed unanimously by voice vote.

10:38 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Dianne Moriarty, Clerk



A Message from the President

Greetings Everyone,

August is upon us and summer is almost over. You know what that means...deer season is not too far away! As many of you know, deer season is one of my favorite times of the year. It's a time to experience God's creation up close and personal. In the silence of the deer stand, it is a time for me to reflect on God's blessings. I appreciate and give thanks for His countless good gifts.



I pray everyone is staying safe during this pandemic. It has been wonderful to see so many of you in church once again, although social distant. For those who choose not to return just yet, we understand and want you to do what is best for you and your family. We continue to do our best to livestream the service to our members and community. Thank you for your patience and understanding when technology does not always work as we plan.

On behalf of St. Philip, I thank all the volunteers who help St. Philip in so many ways. However, you lend a helping hand to move items, clean, or just simply pray, I am grateful! Thank you for helping St. Philip carry on her mission of Growing, Serving, Sharing Christ!



I also wish to thank Pastor Engel for leading us through this unprecedented time. Thank you for leading worship to a church with cardboard cut-outs of members and all those online when we could not attend worship in person.

Thank you for reaching out with phone calls and letters. Thank you for the support of the school and staff.



As we look forward to school starting in a few weeks, I ask you to pray for our students, staff, and families. Pray for their safety and that our students will grow not only academically but also spiritually as we share Christ's love with them. Help us reach out into our community to proclaim the Gospel message.

In closing, as I look back over past articles written, my closing in the January Echo comes to mind. I shared the following:

As we move forward into the new decade, we know God will present us with new adventures, responsibilities, and challenges. He promises to be with us, watch over us, and protect us. He is our guide.

God has surely presented us with new adventures, responsibilities and challenges! I hope that you will join me in continuing to spread the Gospel message here at St. Philip and in the community. I thank the congregation, our volunteers, parents, faculty and staff that make up St. Philip. We are all in this together. We are all here at this time to be St. Philip.

Yours in Christ,
Brian Tennis
President

weekly trips to the park. Face coverings were worn and students played socially distant as much as possible. We even had a smaller group of children. Although it was different, it was still a success! It was wonderful to have children on campus and hear the sounds of their laughter and joy once again. Thank you to the families who enrolled in camp and entrusted their children to our care. Thank you to the staff who worked to make summer camp fun and a safe place.

We're Going Back To School



Now as we look to the opening of our school year on August 24, God-willing, our plan is to hold in-person

instruction. Our tag line is We're Back! Every Student, Every Day! In July we held a Zoom parent meeting describing our opening plan with safety guidelines. Daily temperature checks, health screenings, face coverings, social distancing, and increased handwashing will be the norm. Classrooms will have desks spread at least 6' apart facing one direction. If you drive by St. Philip, you may see the children outside more than usual. Sometimes classroom instruction will take place outside, allowing children and staff to social distance even more. We are also limiting the people in the building. Parents will need to make an appointment and have a temperature check before coming into the building. We are doing the best we can to make St. Philip a safe place for our students, staff and families.



SCHOOL NOTES

At the time of our June Echo I wrote about uncertainty...uncertainty of what summer would look like; uncertainty of having summer camp; and, the uncertainty of in-person instruction for the new school year. Now August has begun and we experienced limited things to do and places to go during this summer. Perhaps your usual vacation to another place turned into a staycation at home.



Yes, there is still much uncertainty in our world today; however, we were able to host a summer camp for seven weeks. Summer camp looked different than in summers past. Everything took place at St. Philip. There were no outside field trips, swimming lessons, or

Mr. Wickboldt Retires:

Mr. Wickboldt will not be returning to St. Philip in a regular teaching capacity in August. He has officially retired! Over the course of his career, Mr. Wickboldt has served as teacher, principal, coach, athletic director, and so much more. We are grateful that Mr. Wickboldt came to serve at St.



Philip. His love for science and math was evident through the lessons he taught. In P.E. the students learned about the importance of exercise and healthy bodies. As athletic director, he attended every game both at St. Philip and at the opposing team's school. He encouraged the athletes to be their best and display good sportsmanship. In chapel, students always enjoyed when he played his guitar and taught new songs. Mr. Wickboldt displayed a Christ-like example. Staff always appreciated Mr. Wickboldt for his stories and uplifting commentary. We thank Mr. Wickboldt for his service in ministry for so many years, and in particular, these last two years at St. Philip. May God richly bless his future plans with his wife Cindy, and their family. In the future, we plan to hold a gathering to celebrate Mr. Wickboldt's retirement. The date is to be determined.

2020-2021 School Year:

The school year is right around the corner. These next few weeks will be filled with floor waxing, school cleaning, teacher meetings and classroom set-up. On August 10 teachers will gather at St. Philip for the CLEF Networking Conference. This annual event will be held virtually this year rather than at Walther Christian Academy as in the past. On August 20, we will hold Back to School Parent Meetings.

Sunday, August 23 is our annual Back to School worship service at 10:00 a.m. This year it will be held outside in our school parking lot. Everyone is asked to bring a lawn chair and sit socially distant. Staff will be rededicated during the service and our third graders will receive their Bibles.

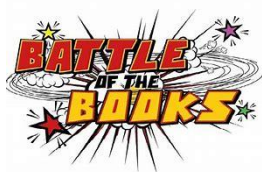


We have a new staff member who joins our staff in August. We are excited to welcome Mr. Luke Kapolnek, who will serve as our upper grades homeroom teacher. His teaching duties include English Language Arts, History, and

Science for the upper grades.

Many exciting things are happening at St. Philip this year! We are creating a Makerspace Classroom with the addition of a 3-D printer, engineering materials, and art supplies. Miss Maanum will receive new materials for both inside and out including a triangular easel, classroom furniture, and outdoor water table and mud kitchen. Last year our students began a recycling program. This year Mrs. Schau is including a composting program. All of these materials would not be possible without the Dream a Dream Grant through the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation (CLEF). We are grateful to CLEF for granting our Dreams!

Also new at St. Philip is our school-wide literacy curriculum. This comprehensive program will provide a balanced approach to teaching reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Teachers will receive training on this curriculum. The program also includes an online component, should we have to move to remote learning once again. We are grateful to CLEF for making this a reality.



Another new program is Battle of the Books for our 5th-8th graders. Students are encouraged to read as many books from a designated book list. Volunteers will work with

the Battle of the Books team to prepare them for a competition with other schools in virtual battles. During the battles, students will be asked questions about the books. The team with the most points will be designated the winner of the battle. We look forward to the fun!

Thank You!

Thank you to all who have helped with cleaning, moving furniture, and preparing classrooms this summer. Recently we had a work night and we are grateful to the crew who came out and got much work done in a small amount of time. Thank you also, to Gigi Hansen, Karen Huston, and Jennifer Miranda and their families who tirelessly worked on assorted projects of moving, cleaning, and purging materials throughout the campus. Their work has not gone unnoticed!



Finally, thank you to all who continually support St. Philip through their time, talents, treasures and prayers. We have a wonderful opportunity to spread the Gospel message through our church and school ministries.

We know there is continued uncertainty in the days and months ahead due to COVID-19. Plans may change in a moment's notice. We may have feelings of uneasiness. We have the assurance though, of knowing that we are showered by God's love and grace for us. He sent Jesus to be our Savior so that all those who believe may have eternal life. Of this, we can be certain!

In Christ,

Donna Terris

Principal



...a fun place to play and learn!

Stewards of Our God-given Vocations Anonymous

The Pocket Bible Dictionary defines vocations as “a calling based on God’s purpose and grace (2 Timothy 1:9). The Apostle Paul urged believers ‘to walk worthy’ of their Christian vocation (Ephesian 4:1).” God has given each of us different vocations. At birth, we were given the vocation of being a child. Many of us have brothers and sisters, so we have the vocation of being

siblings. If we marry, we have the vocation of spouse, and, with children, we have the vocation of parents. Our place of residence makes us citizens of our neighborhoods, cities, counties, states, and our country. Our work is a vocation. At baptism, we are given the vocation of being Christian.



And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

As God’s people, we see our vocations as gifts from God, and, with His help, we can honor Him in each of our vocations. The Apostle Paul tells us “And whatever you do, in a word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” Colossians 3:17. Jesus should accompany us in every vocation of life. In each of our vocations, we have a responsibility to do our best and show God’s love in all that we do. For example, as a married person, I am to love and cherish my spouse. As parents, we are to provide for the physical well-being of our children and most, important, help them to grow in their relationship with Jesus. To walk worthy, as Paul encouraged, implies that we are to be God’s representatives in all of our vocations. In our homes, neighborhoods, places of work, and churches, we are, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to reflect God’s image and values in each of our vocations. God’s image reveals a spirit of kindness, patience, love, and generosity. We are to bring good to others and glory to God in order that His kingdom might advance.

Our careers or places of work are what we reference most when we think about vocations. To work and have a vocation is a wonderful gift from God. Pastor Tony Evans in his book Kingdom Stewardship tells us that we are to “stop leaving God at church. Take Him to work. He wants to be part of the widgets you are making, letters you are typing, businesses you are building, and entrepreneurial risk you are taking. He wants to be a part of the education you are pursuing. He wants to climb the ladder with you.”



Our vocations are truly our calling in life. Vocation is much more than our jobs or where we work to earn a living. Our vocations are the places where the Lord has stationed us to love and serve our family, friends, and all people. Our vocations bind us together in loving relationships. These are the relationships that God calls us to steward.



The Lydia Guild

Barb Uber

We will have our first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, September 22nd in Memorial Hall. We will gather at 6:30 PM for snacks and the business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

It will be a planning meeting for the 2020-2021 year. We hope to plan activities and outings as well as our usual bake sale and holiday gift sales.



If there is time we will work on decorating Halloween picture frames for our own use Hope to see you there



Senior Book Buddies

Barb Uber

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If our school is on a normal schedule in September we hope to read to a preschool group on Wednesday, September 30th. We’ll meet at 9:00 AM in Memorial Hall and read to the children at 9:30 AM.

The children enjoy the personal attention and the adults always have a good time. Come and join us!



August Birthdays

- 2 – Hannah Schau
- 4 – Lauren Huston
- 5 – Darlyn Murphy
- 10 – Constance Nickles
- 13 – Rachel Pearson
- 20 – Louis Nickles
- 21 – George Pearson



A letter from the Post Office...

This is absolutely the best!! We don't know who replied but there is a beautiful soul working in the dead letter department who understands LOVE.

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter, Meredith, was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that, when Abbey got to Heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought that we could, so she dictated these words:

*Dear God,
Will you please take care of my dog? Abbey died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I'm happy that you let me have her as my dog, even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls.*

*I am sending a picture of her, so when you see her, you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.
Love, Meredith*

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey & Meredith, addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because, she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, When a Pet Dies. Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:



*Dear Meredith,
Abbey arrived safely in heaven! Having the picture was a big help and I recognized her right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog.*

Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I'm sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you.

*I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.
Love, God*

