



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.stphilliplutheran.com

The Pastor's Page

Pastor Tom Engel

Living like Caring for Cows

Watching the news, I saw a segment where the reporter was interviewing a young woman who is a dairy farmer. Mostly, the questions were about how farmers are keeping up with the food supply in this difficult time.

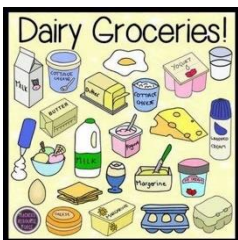


At the end of the interview, the reporter thanked the dairy farmer for her commitment to the needs of America in this time of crisis.

I am a milk alcoholic and appreciate everyone from farmers to truck drivers who are keeping the milk pipeline going.

She responded to the reporter by saying, "Thanks, but working hard is what we always do around here."

When I was a vicar, I was assigned to a church in Nashville, Illinois. Nashville is a town that is surrounded by farms. Many of the members of the church are dairy farmers.



As I went out visiting the folks of the church, the families gave me tours of their farms. Coming from the suburbs of Chicago where we see the end product of farms on grocery shelves to a farm in Southern Illinois where it all

begins, I was in awe of the consistent work of a dairy farmer.

If I learned anything, I found that "Cows need to be milked twice a day, and how it's necessary that a milking is never to be missed."

The caring of cows is something that has to be continuous with absolutely no interruptions. A cow does not care about your situation, your thoughts, or your feelings when it comes to its needs.

If you are tired, the cows still need to be milked-if you are not feeling well, the cows still need to be fed-if other things come up that need your attention, the cows that are sick still need care.

As a suburban guy, whose knowledge of milk goes only as far as the right amount of syrup to make a good glass of chocolate milk, I found the deep meaning of the phrase, 24-7-365, when seeing the operations of a dairy farm.



Caring for cows takes a commitment that I've never seen before, and I have to say it was inspiring.

I saw a work ethic that I might apply to my life.

I wish I could convey the tone of dedication that the young woman had in her voice that came from her heart when she said, "But hard work is what we always do around here."

Imagine in whatever vocation that you have: you wake-up way before sunrise, make coffee, work for a few hours, eat breakfast, do some chores for more hours, eat another meal, repeat that work all over again until long

after the sun sets, get some rest, and then, repeat all of that work day after day, even holidays.



The demands of a dairy farmer is relentless with hardly any kind of relief. I did learn that these families who own farms did make schedules where

siblings took their turns with the work, but the dominating thought of every dairy farmer was centered on the constant care of the cows.

In drought, floods, storms, and even pandemics, they work hard in any season to make their farms produce food because that is what farmers do.

In comparing other vocations to a dairy farmer, I want to be clear that I am not saying that the rest of us are loafers, but we can be inspired from other people as they do their work like we are seeing now with first responders, teachers, and the stocker at the grocery store.

Each vocation has its unique disciplines- the accuracy of an accountant, the attention to detail of an architect, the physical exertion of a brick laborer, and the delicate skill of a surgeon.

If we bring in everything that we can to our work, our families, and communities, we are people who are doing our part to make for a better whole.

Trying to bring it all together makes for a life of challenges that never seem to go away. These trying times are a proof that life always has something that it wants to dish out to us.

Christians can see a trying time as a red flag that is calling for us to repent of our sins, and then, by God's forgiveness in Christ, we find His direction to go on to a better course in life that is keeping with God's good will for us.

To be sure, every day, we are to be repenting of our sins. Because we are born sinful and are always falling short of the glory of God, we are to be repenting in all seasons.



We might find ourselves saying, "I have repented and am trying to do better." In saying that we have done our part, we might then expect to be relieved of our burdens, well, at least some relief.

But doesn't it seem that at times when we are trying to be the best Christian that we can be, things actually get harder for us.

Let's try and put some logic in here and talk about what is fair-if we do our part and repent of our sins and do better with our lives, doesn't it make sense that we should get relief? Doesn't it make sense that since we have been so good, we should not have any kind of suffering?

From where I am standing as a person trying to do better, it seems God should shower me with blessings. That's at least my human understanding of how life should work and that is also how the world thinks-if we do good, we deserve something good.

I mean that we should only suffer when we do bad. Right?

The world looks at Christians as rather different, but Christians look at the world and its ways as different.

Christians are just a different kind of people.

We see our suffering as a display of God's glory in us. Although I have to admit I want to return to a normal life again, I also know that all that is happening in this time is the working out of God's will.



And as God is working out His will, we, who have repented and are trying to do good, still have to suffer along with the world.

But we see this suffering differently than the world does. And I don't want to say that we gladly are open to suffering. I want this all to end as soon as it can, but I also know that God will bless us in this time by helping us get through it.

This time is hard, but who is to say that God is not giving us blessings right now.

Christians can suffer for the good of the whole. Is this the same kind of thought as a dairy farmer who may not feel like milking her cows that day, but she does it anyway because its what a dairy farmer does?



We do things because we just do them, and maybe we do not even understand everything. It's all a matter of faith. We know we are following God, and if we have to suffer, we know we are not to dodge it, but we

go headlong into a calamity knowing God has a purpose for it, and He will take care of us with His help for that situation as hard as it might be.

We need to trust that God has a big picture in mind, and simply, that big picture is to bring the whole world to Himself.

When Jesus' friend, Lazarus, was sick and later had died, Jesus said, "This sickness is not unto death, but to show the glory of God."



A couple of things worth noting here. First, Jesus could have come sooner and prevented Lazarus from getting sick or even healed him when he was sick. But Jesus chose not to heal him. Also, Jesus and Lazarus seemed to have a special relationship. So, Jesus did not come to save his good friend, but he did let him suffer and die.

Why did Jesus put off what he could have solved? Let's keep going through the story to see what happens.

Next, we see that Jesus cried when he heard of Lazarus' death. Jesus could have saved himself the grief of his friend's death, but again, he did not do anything to save Lazarus.

With all that said, Jesus had another idea in mind. Lazarus' death took place not long before Jesus would die and then rise again. To show that resurrection was a real possibility, Jesus had Lazarus die, and then he raised him from the dead to show the power of God.

In the power of God, we see God's glory in Jesus.

In any suffering that we might have like grief and pain, we know God's plan is working. God has the power to work out His plan, and His glory will always be seen.

Our part is to keep moving in the story of our lives. And we can keep moving by faith.



Even Jesus, when he knew he was going to the cross, had on his mind that heavy thought of how much suffering was ahead of him. Jesus had to question if he really had to go through all that pain. But he knew it was his Father's good will, so he committed himself to His Father's will and went to die for the sins of the world.

On the cross, Jesus shouted, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" A psalmist asked that question

in his troubles, and we might be asking God that question in these hard times.

The answer is, in one way, the same way for the psalmist and us-God has not really left us, but he will let us stay in our troubles, so we can go through them to show His glory as we our faithful in all times-good and bad.

For Jesus when he asked that question, God his Father really did forsake him. God the Father turned His back on his own Son, Jesus, so he could take the punishment for the sins of the world.

Jesus' suffering on the cross was to show God's glory. He showed God's glory as God was bringing the world to Himself.

This week we have had Ascension Day. When Jesus left this world to return to heaven, we see God's glory with Jesus going to heaven to reign over heaven and earth. And Jesus will keep reigning over us all until he comes again.

Do we see how the story keeps going of God bringing the world to Himself?

God is trying to bring the whole world to repent. As God is trying to show every person throughout the world the need for repentance, we might have to suffer with the world as God works out his plan, but we also know God is caring for us as He works out His good plan.



God can only care for his beloved children because that is the kind of God that He is.

So, we turn to God, and we follow his will, even if means suffering when doing good.

And that's the kind of people of faith that we are.

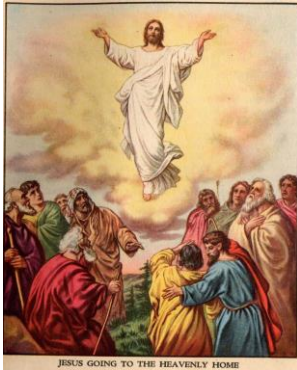
In seeing how dairy farmers care for their cows, I learned a lesson about hard work. In this time, we are seeing the hard work of other workers. We can be examples to each other of what commitment is to our jobs, so we all benefit from that hard work as each part contributes to the whole.

Maybe our inspiring one another is one silver-lining in this difficult time.

I have nothing against about thinking positive in bad times, but there is even more going on here.

Seeing Jesus ascend up to the sky, we remember how Jesus has done everything to the glory of God the Father. So, we, too, can live to God's glory. Like caring for cows as much as that is, our lives are even more as people of faith-in anything that comes our way, we live our lives in a continuous commitment to God and His will to His glory.

And that kind of living to glory has such great blessings that come to us. Those blessings are here now with so many more on the way.



JESUS GOING TO THE HEAVENLY HOME

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
The Lutheran Church of Saint Philip
2500 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL

05/04/2020 – Meeting held online via Zoom, due to the Coronavirus quarantine.

Present: Reverend Thomas Engel **Directors:** Brian Tennis, Mark Iverson, Karen Andersen, Pete Nabhani, Nancy Bowman, Jennifer Miranda, and Dianne Moriarty
Advisory: Donna Tennis **Excused:** Diana Maanum
Reports Received: Zoom meeting invitation, Commission on Education and Principal's Report.

7:04 p.m. Meeting opened with prayer and thanksgiving for our being able to meet together.

President' Comments President Tennis underscored that while so many things have changed during the past 6 weeks, our mission to share the Gospel hasn't changed.

Pastor's Comments Pastor recommend that, should we be able to hold worship services again in June, we follow the CDC guidelines regarding wearing masks, social distancing, monitoring temperatures and maybe offering gloves & hand sanitizer. Additional safety measures were discussed, and the sanctuary will be measured to determine reasonable capacity with social distancing. Fellowship coffee hour remains suspended.

The worship opening protocol will be posted on St. Philip's web page. Possible ways of holding communion during the pandemic will be investigated, including single use communion sets. Pastor is willing to offer individual communion now, by appointment. The Board agreed that Pastor could announce this on Sunday. Persons should contact Pastor Engel directly to schedule an appointment. Changing needs at St. Philip due to the Covid's crisis were further debated. The Board then moved into executive session and discussed payroll and positions for the upcoming year. There were no objections to Pastor's request to use the remaining 1K of funds, from an Immigration Ministry grant, to purchase food for community food baskets. Per Pastor's suggestion to allow online giving through St. Philip's website, Brian will contact the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCF) about their credit card handling program. Pastor stressed the importance of making every effort, during this pandemic, to have the school open this fall.

Commission on Education Principal Tennis and the commission have been meeting about possible return to school plans and what a normal school day would look like. Should additional educational space be required for social distancing, there are available areas in the Church building.

Commission on Property The commission on property reported that the sale of our underused property is at a standstill, due to the Coronavirus situation. The property developer is still interested in the property. The feasibility of having the community meeting required for property development, via an online service or application, is being investigated. The water bill situation hasn't been resolved yet because the Water Department is shuttered until June.

Financial Update Due to an initial drop off in donations at the start of the Covid's crisis, it was necessary to use 10K from the reserves to cover payroll and insurance costs. Regular church donations can be mailed in during the quarantine. This past week donations were back to pre-Covid's level and there is still 110K in the reserves. For the school Brian submitted, to Providence Bank, an application for a small business administration government sponsored payroll protection loan.

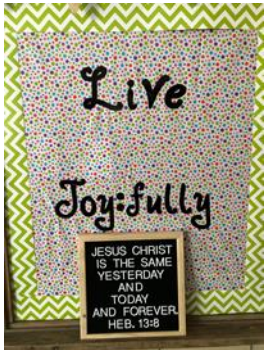
Commission on Worship Possibilities for the graduation worship service will be explored.

8:35 p.m. Meeting ended with prayer.

Minutes submitted respectfully, Dianne Moriarty, Clerk



Principal's Report – Summer 2020



It is a bittersweet time of year. Our school year is drawing to a close and with that comes the anticipation of summer...time off from school, vacations, camping, swimming, and so much more!

The final week of school is usually filled with returning textbooks, cleaning out desks and lockers, packing up supplies, a school picnic, and closing chapel. Eighth graders look forward to their special dinner celebration, and, of course, graduation. We know this year will not be the same.

Teachers packed up students supplies and cleaned out lockers. They await families to drop off textbooks in exchange for their supplies. Our school picnic activities are virtual. Students watch videos of teachers demonstrating events and then do them on their own. The closing chapel service will be virtual. Following the service families will drive through the parking lot at designated times to pick up report cards and wave good-bye to teachers.

A special dinner will be delivered to our eighth grade families and then they will play games virtually. Awarding of diplomas will take place in our parking lot socially distanced, rather than in church. Eighth grade families will drive through the school parking lot where students and families will wave to them from their vehicles to congratulate them. Once it is safe to gather in larger groups we will plan a church service celebration for the graduates, perhaps in the fall.



Yes, it is a bittersweet time of year. We anticipate the coming of summer, but yet we know it will be much different. There is uncertainty. Yet, in the midst of changes and uncertainty, we can be comforted in the words from Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. May we find comfort in knowing that Jesus will never change. He has died and

washed away our sins. We are forgiven and his love is everlasting. Christ will carry us through these uncertain and changing times.

Summer Camp

At this time summer camp remains another uncertainty. We are looking at CDC guidelines, family needs, and staffing. A decision will be made soon.

Looking ahead to 2020-2021

At this time we are conducting virtual tours for new families, so spread the word. The first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 24. We are hoping it will be in person, even though socially distanced. Teachers are already thinking about what the new school year might look like as they prepare for some changes.

As we close out this school year, I thank the students, families and staff for all their hard work during this year, especially in these last few months of the pandemic. Students powered through amidst the changes in teaching and instruction. Parents were supportive of their children and St. Philip. The staff continued to provide academic instruction and care to our students and families. Thank you also to St. Philip congregation for continued prayers, support and encouragement during this time.

Continue to pray for our staff, students, and families as we depart from one another during this summer. We ask God to keep us safe and bring us together again in August along with new students and families. Pray for our graduates as they move on to high school in the fall. May these young gentleman walk in Christ's path every day.

We praise God for his good gifts he continues to bestow on us each and every day. We praise Him that he sent Jesus to be our constant in the midst of uncertainty and change.

In Christ,

Donna Tennis

Principal





Putting our Talents to Work



Scripture tells us that each of us has received talents and gifts from God. We read in 1 Peter 4:10, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” We do not receive our

God-given gifts just to serve ourselves. They are not given to us just so we can make more money or get ahead or be more successful. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to us to be used in service to others. God in His grace and wisdom has given us gifts and talents that can best accomplish the purpose He has for us. To one person, He gives many abilities and to another few. Whether we’ve been given a few talents and gifts or many, we are to use what we’ve been given faithfully and responsibly.

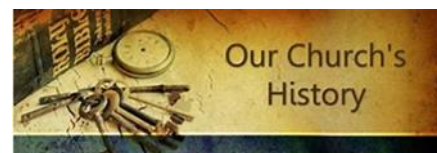
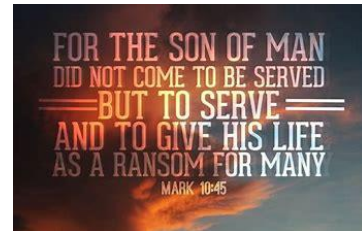
We have a choice. Do we want just to sit on the gifts God has given us, or do we want to be active and use them? John Glenn, the first astronaut to circle the world, shared this thought. “It has been my observation that the happiest people, the vibrant doers of the world, are almost always those who are using—who are putting into play, calling upon, depending upon the greatest number of their God-given talents and capabilities.” God calls upon us to use what has been given to us. Through the Apostle Paul, God tells us, “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy” (1 Corinthians 4:2). Jesus said, in Luke 12:48, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b).



When we allow ourselves to be used by God, He will take our meager talents and bless them and use them to build His kingdom and to reach lost people. In the process, we become examples for others around us. All our talents and abilities are to be used so that God is praised and so that His purpose is accomplished. With the Lord, there is no such thing as “just sit back and let somebody else do it.” All of us are to use our gifts in touching lives with His Gospel.

The concept of serving does not come naturally. Our inborn desire is to serve ourselves and to take care of our needs. However, Jesus gave us a perfect example of serving. He “came not to be served but to serve” (Matthew 20:28). He wasn’t interested in getting credit or getting ahead. With Jesus’ example and with the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to strive to use our talents to be a blessing to God, to the Church, to the community, and to our families.

Anonymous



June – A Step Into Saint Philip History

JUNE 4, 1972 - In a 3:30 P.M. worship Service, The Rev. Kenneth W. Garazin, son of Mr. Walter and Mrs. Marge Garazin, long-time members of Saint Philip, was ordained into the Ministry.

JUNE 6, 1971 - In an 11:00 A.M. Worship Service, The Rev. Bruce C. Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hanson, long-time members of Saint Philip, was ordained into the Ministry.

JUNE 13, 1965 - Our Holtkamp Organ was dedicated, following a change in the structure of the balcony and completion of other acoustical problems in the Church. The total cost, at the time, including interior construction work, and the organ itself, was in the neighborhood of \$45,000.

The Dedicatory Recital was played by Dr. Paul Bowman, on October 2, 1965. Dr. Bowman, who passed away, in 2019, at the age of 100, was an accomplished organist as well as composer of many choral and organ pieces. Quoting from the Service Bulletin at the Dedication of the Organ: “Our new organ is the work of one of the most honored organ builders in



America. It stands free. There is no barrier between it and the congregation. It wishes to join all the people of Saint Philip in the praise of God.”

The original specifications for the organ were written by Dr. Carl F. Halter, Minister of Music, at the time. An outstanding feature of the organ is the Ruckpositiv, the division of the organ which extends over the railing of the balcony.



Our organ has been featured in the “Pipe Organs of Chicago, Vol II” as one of the historic important Church Organs in Chicago.

JUNE 14, 1981 - The Elementary School Building was dedicated in the Memory of the Ministry of The Rev. Dr. Victor C. Rickman, the 3rd Pastor of Saint Philip. It was then named The Rev. Dr. Victor C. Rickman Activities Center.

JUNE 18, 2000 - In a 3:00 P.M. Worship Service, The Rev. Christopher C. Browne was ordained and installed as the 5th Pastor in the History of Saint Philip.

JUNE 18, 1978 - In the 10:00 A.M. Worship Service, The Rev. Robert P. Rickman, son of The Rev. Dr. Victor C, and Mrs. Florence Rickman, was ordained into the Ministry.

JUNE 21, 1981 - In a 2:00 P.M. Worship Service, The Rev. Emil A. Witschy, son of Mr. Emil O. and Mrs. Edith Witschy, long-time members of Saint Philip, was ordained into the Ministry.

July – A Step Into Saint Philip History

JULY 21, 1929 - At 10:00 A.M. and 7:45 P.M., Dedication Services were held in our present Church. Hymns and portions of the Liturgy were in both English and German. The style of the architecture, of our Church, is early English Gothic. The architect was Mr. Herbert A. Brand. The cost of the new Church and parsonage was \$135,000. The cornerstone had been laid previously in a Service, at 3:00 P.M., on November 4, 1928.



JULY 23, 1929 - At 7:45 P.M., a Mission-Emphasis Service was held. Missionaries from Hispanic, African American, Persian and Deaf Missions spoke at the Mission Rally.



Senior Book Buddies & Lydia Guild

By Barb Uber

Because of the virus lock down the Lydia Guild and Senior Book Buddies have been unable to meet. We look forward to the fall when hopefully we will be able to come together again. Please take care and stay healthy!



June Birthdays

- 3 – David Iverson
- 6 - Jessica Krysik
Lynn Walsh
- 8 – Christopher Amundson
- 10 – Emily Schau
- 13 – Olivia Cesena
- 15 – Deborah Caruthers
- 17 – Dianne Moriarty
- 21 – Karen Andersen
- 23 – Glen Wicklund



July Birthdays

- 5 – Eryn Paker
- 6 – Ashley Krysik
- 9 – Carl Caruthers
- 13 – Katherine Byrd
- 18 – Richard Andersen
Alberto Miranda
- 30 – Brian Tennis