



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

Up On the Mountain

When I open my laptop in the mornings, I first see a scene from all the different screen savers that pop up each day. Last week, there was a brilliant show of lightening in the sky while lava came running down a volcano in the foreground. This morning, a tropical island with white sandy beaches was on the screen. With the day looking like it is going to be cold and snowy, I imagined that it would be a good escape to go to that island and soak up some hot sun for a few days.



All those pictures remind me that there is a whole lot more to this world. We are nearing the end of winter, but as we get closer to the end of winter, doesn't it seem that it will never end? High anticipation for the next thing somehow makes time seem to go slower.

Going through life, especially through a difficult time, it's natural to want to be somewhere else. Who likes to be in stinky rotten messes? I have never walked or plan to walk through a garbage dump, but if I ever did, I would run through it as quickly as I can. Also, I never plan to walk over hot coals, but if I had to, I would skip over them in one or two hops.



At times, I just want to skip through and over life as much as possible. My list of things I just want to get over as quickly as I can includes: going to the dentist and getting my teeth cleaned even though my dental hygienist is a pleasant person, going anywhere in the city knowing I will cut off by at least one driver who

thinks he is driving at the Daytona 500, and going to a conference that has a dull speaker and stale coffee.

Think for a moment about the time and place that you would rather have not had to been there, but you tried to make the best of a "bad" situation. To put the best construction on conferences, I have to admit that I usually get a "golden nugget" or two of new information that I can take back with me. And for the next conference, I know that I have a picky taste for things like coffee, so I will bring my own coffee next time, so I know that it is fresh.

I will argue that for the most part, and I think we can say that even for all the parts, that whatever moment that we are experiencing is a good one. Unpleasant times can be good in the sense that they are moving us to something better. In the difficult times, we might be learning a lesson that we need about life. And after we have lived awhile and experienced different parts of life, we know that life is just hard at times, but it all does get figured out at some point.

In our world with so many distractions, the best things that we can do is to show up and be present with focus on what is happening where we are at. We know texting while driving is distracted driving. If we are at the family dinner table, we can turn off all screens and talk to each other. Going to our jobs and to classrooms, we focus all of our attention on the work in front of us.

Being Mindful



Be in the Present

We are missing quite a bit that is in right in front of our noses if we keep letting ourselves be distracted. With whatever we are doing and with whomever we are with, we need to be fully engaged in the moment, so we can be connected with all that is going on in that time. When I'm at the dentist, and the hygienist is scraping my teeth, it might seem to be much to say, "It is good to be here." Although it's not a pleasant experience to have someone with sharp tools so close to the gum line, a teeth cleaning is important for good oral health.

We have our standards when it comes to judging our good days. A sunny warm day with a nice breeze is perfect, but for the person who likes to go dancing in the rain, gray skies with some drizzle is an awesome day. If a person likes action films, but then he sees a romantic drama, he may not like the movie because he judges any movie by it's special effects.



On that day when Jesus was transfigured before the disciples on the mountain, we can take a strong cue from Peter when he said, "It is good to be here." On the mountain, Peter, James, and John, saw a glimpse of Jesus' full glory. The disciples needed to see this glory to help encourage them as they would have to see Jesus die, and then after Jesus' ascension into heaven, they would be starting the early church .

Peter was his over zealous typical self when he talked about building tents. He was having an actual mountain top experience that was the best time of all time because he was seeing the glory of heaven in Jesus. We can't really blame Peter for wanting to stay and keep this good thing going for as long as he could.

Jesus could not stay on the mountain, for he had to continue his mission to go the cross to die for the sins of the world. Peter, James, and John needed to be witnesses of all that Jesus had to do, so they could then tell the world about the work of their Savior and Lord.

I am thinking that every moment of our lives is good for us because each moment is part of our lives and makes us who we are. God uses each moment to bring us closer to Him. We can say each moment is a glorious moment because we have salvation all day long. God's grace is here with us, so we can say no matter where we are or what is happening that "It is good to be here."

Worship is that mountain top experience. When we are in worship we can hear with our own ears the Word of God speaking to us. When we are praying, we know God is listening. In our hymns and songs of praise, all of heaven is singing with us. At the altar, we are participating in Christ when we eat his body and drink his blood.



As Jesus and the disciples came down from the mountain, people were waiting for them because they knew something special happened on the mountain top. Peter later wrote about his time on the mountain for us to read in his epistle. He said that he was an eye-witness to the event. We, too, have participated in God's glory and are ready to go into our lives and the world with all the ups and downs of life.



The season of Lent is definitely a valley experience. In Lent, we will be talking about sin and walking with Jesus as he goes to the cross. All of the preparation of looking at our sins is a good experience, for it will make our "Alleluias" mean so much more when we say on Easter morning, "He is risen!" Up on the mountain top all is good, and we remember "it is good to here" whatever that "here" might be because we have seen and are always seeing the glory of God in Christ.



A Message from the President

Greetings Everyone,

I usually write my article for the Echo a few days before the end of the month so that Lynne Carey, whom I thank profusely, for taking on the job of chief Echo organizer, has time to format all the articles for publication. I have to admit that I am usually last to submit my article as I always seem to wrestle with what to report. On what should the chairman report? I can write about the school. I can write about worship, property, evangelism, and just about anything concerning St. Philip. But, am I just re-reporting on what the commission's report? I feel that I should be writing to encourage people, to strengthen people, and to share the Gospel whenever possible to all who will listen. As we are in the Lenten season now, with Ash Wednesday just this past week, we need to be even more focused on the sacrifice Christ made for us. I know I have written about this before, but Lent for me, means not what I would be willing to sacrifice, but what I would be willing to add. What more can I do to help spread the Gospel? I pray that each of you would consider and reflect on this question this Lenten season. God has brought us all here at this time to be his church, St. Philip. Continue the mission of Growing, Serving and Sharing Christ.



I want to share just a couple notes to keep everyone informed. First, we seem to be on track for a closing of the ECC property for early April. This would be the first phase and would concern the parking lot. Recently, the developer, the alderman's representative, the zoning attorney, Mr.Nabhani, and Pastor met to go over a progress report. All seems to be in good order and progressing to a favorable conclusion. Second, the school while still operating in a deficit, I feel is gaining

momentum for next year. Lots of good signs that the school will grow next year are beginning to take shape. These good signs are largely due to the efforts of our part time marketing person Mrs. Bateman and the continued support of the Chicago Lutheran Educational Foundation. The school remains the largest mission to our congregation and I thank everyone for your continued support.

Finally, just a few words about the opportunities to serve St. Philip. St. Philip is your church. It exists and operates through the working of the Holy Spirit in people to serve. Is the Holy Spirit working in you to serve St. Philip in some capacity?



Openings exist to serve on the Board of Directors; the Commission on Evangelism is vacant; and, all the other positions except for one are being filled by those on extended terms. All the Commissions would love to have an additional member or two. The various committees that take care of all the events at St. Philip would sure like to have an additional pair of hands to help. Serving is a blessing, not a sacrifice.



Thanks again to all of you who serve the congregation of St. Philip in any capacity. Continue to pray for the ministry here at St. Philip and one another.

Yours in Christ,
Brian Tennis / Chairman

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

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

01/26/2020– Memorial Hall, St. Philip Lutheran Church

11:30 a.m. Meeting began with prayer. A devotion about goals was read.

President's Comments President Brian Tennis greeted the Voters and advised them of the sign in sheets, and the meeting agenda & school report handouts. There were also samples of two proposed typeface layouts for a new church sign, which will replace the one damaged by a car.

June 2019 Voters' Meeting Minutes Copies of the June 2019 Voters' Meeting minutes will be printed and placed in the Narthex for Voters' review.

Budget & Finance During the June 2019 Voters' Meeting the Voters affirmed their continued support of the mission of St. Philip School by approving a budget with a projected \$ 28K deficit, and had agreed to focus

on marketing and promoting the School's mission. An additional \$11K of estimated expense was later identified. This brought the total projected deficit to

\$39K. As of December 30th, 2019, through the loving, caring and generosity of the congregation, the current budget deficit stands at approximately \$13K. Expenses are monitored. School enrollment is the factor that is hardest to predict and can affect the budget greatly. There is one open invoice for Concordia Health plans (insurance). There is \$ 147.5K in the reserves at Northern Trust. While redoubling school marketing efforts, the Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation (CLEF) provided funds to St. Philip to hire a part time marketing person for a year. A detailed financial report is available. Thirvent choice dollars may be donated towards special projects at St. Philip.

Mid-Year School and ECC Report Principal Donna Tennis thanked the Voters for their support of the school and introduced this year's teaching staff. New addition, Mr. McClain, is now teaching 6th to 8th grade morning classes and working with the 6th to 8th graders on a play based on the book "The Phantom Toll Booth". The Voters were invited to attend the school operetta, "Rainbow Fish", on April 3rd. Pastor is an integral part of the school, teaching religion to the 1st through 8th grades. The teaching staff's dedication was commended. Principal Tennis next gave a recap of the educational and extracurricular activities, programs, and highlights during the first half of the school year. This year's school theme "Live Joyfully", based on 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18, is a focal point for Chapel and the school day. The Parent Teacher League's hard work and innovative events were noted. Community outreach has included having two 2 sports groups use the gym, letting Advanced Academy use arts space, and allowing CPS students to attend band practice in our facility during the Chicago Teachers' Strike. Principle Tennis detailed CLEF's financial generosity to St. Philip: educational funding which made it possible to expand the Spanish language program to all grades, scholarships for teacher professional development, and funding for part-time marketing staff member Ms. Andrea Bateman. Since her arrival Ms. Bateman has updated St. Philip's website, made signs for the school, has been posting to St. Philip's Facebook page, and has been reaching out to the local community. Several inquires and one new school family have been obtained through the updated website. Lastly Mrs. Tennis advised the Voters of two initiatives. The first is the CLEF medallion program that focuses on several areas of school development. Each time St. Philip earns a "badge", by meeting the standards for and area of development, the school will receive \$3K. The 2nd initiative is preparation for next year's National Lutheran School accreditation.

Commission on Education Director Karen Huston reported the commission is scheduling a couple of workdays for organizing, moving, and disposing of

materials in the ECC building. It was also announced that a workday for decluttering the church building & kitchen has been scheduled for March 29th, and a workday for graduation cleanup has been scheduled for May 31st.

Commission on Property President Brian Tennis reported that the paperwork to sell the ECC building and parking lot for 1.2 M was signed on November 6th, 2019. The earnest money is on account, and closing is projected for late March or early April. At that point St. Philip will receive the first \$600K, and the first stage of development will begin. The Voters chose, by voice vote, the typeface layout option with primarily san serif type (option A) for the new church sign. It was deemed easier to read than cursive lettering. Thanks were given for Mark Iverson & Henry Krysik who, on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., meet to work on church & school property projects.

Commission on Social Ministry Director Karen Andersen reported that two gardening grant proposals were pending, and that contact was made regarding playground equipment for the school campus. Work and preparations for the School benefit auction, March 21, are underway. The commission is also planning some Sunday afternoon open gym times to encourage children to attend church, and to give them an outlet for energy during the winter. It was announced that the group “You Got Game” would be offering Saturday morning activities, for children, in St. Philip’s gym.

Commission on Worship President Tennis reported that Dir. Nancy Bowman was coordinating the weekly worship schedule of readers, acolytes, ushers, power point presenters, and communion assistants. Anyone willing to serve on a Sunday should contact Nancy.

Officers, Directors, and Commissions It was reported that Director Karen Huston had asked to step down from the Commission on Education. Voters were asked to consider joining either a commission or the Board of Directors.

Pastor’s Comments Pastor reported that, due to continued problems with existing worship streaming and sound system equipment, the worship service is now being streamed via Facebook Live. On average 10 persons watched the original streaming. On average 90 persons have been watching through Facebook Live, which is currently being streamed by cell phone. The quality isn’t where it should be yet. Some new equipment is required. Pastor also highlighted the need to prioritize the property work at St. Philip, and the wisdom of putting together both 5 and 10 year plans for property maintenance and improvements.

12:31 p.m. Meeting ended with prayer given by Pastor Engel.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Dianne Moriarty, Clerk



PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – MARCH 2020

St. Philip Lutheran School + Chicago, Illinois

Great news... Since the beginning of 2020, four students joined our school. We are grateful to all who continue to support our school and tell others about St. Philip. We have new yard signs and car magnets to advertise St. Philip. Stop by the school or church to pick one up for your yard or car. Whom will you tell about St. Philip?



Registration for 2020-2021:

Even though we have three months left in this school year, plans are underway for the next year and that includes registration. In January, we registered a first grade student for next year. In March, we scheduled “Practice Preschool” on Mondays from 10:00-11:00 a.m. This is for families with children ages 2-3 years. If you know of a family looking for more information, please have them contact Andrea Bateman (abateman@stphiliplutheran.com), our Marketing/ Enrollment Director.

Student Baptism:

February 9 was an exciting Sunday at St. Philip! Our students sang during the church service and our 6th-8th graders played the hand bells. At the beginning of the service, one of our 2nd grade students was baptized. It was a wonderful day as our congregation members and our students and their families witnessed the baptism. Thanks be to God for this very special day!



Hallway Updates:

Have you walked down the hallway lately? If so, you have noticed the changes taking place. Thanks to the generous donors from last year's reverse auction, we raised \$12,500. We are using this money to brighten up the hallway. Unused lockers in the main hallway were removed, which opened up the space. The walls were painted a light color. Next steps, is the flooring. After the flooring, another goal is to upgrade the lighting. The cost for the painting and flooring is over \$20,000. Additional funding is needed to complete the project including the lighting.

Knitting/Crochet Club:

Did you know that St. Philip students are learning how to knit and crochet? Thanks to a patient preschool parent who shared her time and talents with kindergarten through seventh grade students after school. In this club, students learned the basic techniques of knitting and crocheting. Although the classes have concluded for now, the students are still practicing the skills learned and they are asking when the club will start up again. We are grateful to all who donated yarn and knitting needles and crochet hooks. If you have yarn that you would like to donate, please drop it off in the school office. It will definitely be put to good use!



Looking Ahead:

- *Wednesdays in March--5:15 p.m. Lenten suppers followed by worship at 6:30 p.m.
- *St. Philip hosts Band Solo Fest on Saturday, March 7
- *Annual school dinner auction on Saturday, March 21
- *Rainbow Fish school musical on Friday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m.

As we begin the season of Lent, may God strengthen you on your Lenten journey.

In Christ,

Donna Tennis

Principal



Senior Book Buddies

Join the Sr Book Buddies on Wednesday, March 18 and read to the kindergarten and first grade classes. We meet for fellowship at 9:00 am and then the children come at 9:30 am.



Lydia Guild

We will be meeting on Tuesday, March 24 and we'll be making spring decorated picture frames. You can make one for yourself and another for sale at our spring craft and bake sale on Palm Sunday.

Join the group at 6:30 pm in Memorial Hall!

A DEVOTIONAL BIBLE

By Gloria Messerschmidt



The "Portals of Prayer" was first published for Lent, in 1937, 83 years ago. At first it was published seven times a year, then monthly beginning in 1959. Now, since 1981, it has been published quarterly. It continues to be an important aid for daily private devotions.

The new "Portals of Prayer Devotional Bible," was published in hardback, in 2019. It uses the English Standard Version of both the Old and New Testament. Each devotion begins with a Preface, then a Portion of Scripture (with words of the Lord written in red) and continues with a Devotion using that particular section of Scripture as the basis. It ends with a short prayer. The Bible also includes both Scripture and Author Indexes.

Our Pastor Engel has written 9 of the devotions based on passages from both the Old and New Testament. For example: Devotions are from Ruth, "A Faith that Clings;" Malachi, "Giving Our Best;" Luke, "The Case for the Resurrection."

For more information concerning the "Devotional Bible," you may check with Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



St. Philip Girl Scout News

By Gigi Hansen

Girl Scouts are busy busy busy in February! Did you know that St. Philip has been a "drop" site for girl scout cookies for years? Every February our troops prepare for cookie season. First, troop leaders attend cookie training and ensure volunteers to help. Leaders have to educate their parents to deadlines and hand out necessary forms. St. Philip's delivery arrived on February 12th. Leaders, Lisa Hader, Lori Switzer, and myself counted in and sorted pallets of cookies. Our delivery serviced St. Philip's three troops and 7 other troops picked up their cookies from us as well. Thanks Lisa and Lori for being team players.

Girls have been selling cookies every weekend at booth sales # Big cheers to all our ladies and to all of you who have purchased cookies!! Our troops truly depend on those sales to help fund extra events and scholarship opportunities for our girls!!

Galentine party!!

February 18th, local chapter of Kappa Delta hosted a Galentine party and service event at Loyola University.

Alice, Michelle, and Mia took part in the party of pizza, lemonade, cookies and games. They then took place in a large no sew fleece blanket making event. The blankets are donated to sick children. The Project Linus is global and those who participate are known as blanketeers. Thanks to our little girls and their parents for participating in such an event. Helping us to create servant based children!!



World Thinking Day was February 22 at Pierce elementary school. St. Philip girls represented the countries of Hungary, Austria, and Slovenia. The girls from troops learn about their chosen countries. they learn culture, language, food religion, even what the flag looks like. Our girls created boards of information to share with our service unit. They also made swaps (specially whatchamacallits affectionately pinned) that were shaped like crepes and skiis. Our little girls created a Hungarian dance they performed. We had 8 of our girls participate on the service unit flag ceremony and song. Finally, we served warm crepes at our table to share an authentic treat.

Troop meetings happen every week at St. Philip. Our Daisies and Brownies meet one week. The alternate week our Juniors and Cadettes meet. Seniors and Ambassadors try to meet at least once a month or twice depending on girls' schedules.

Look for our scouts serving lenten supper on March 4!



ALUMNI NEWS

By Donna Tennis

We always enjoy hearing about St. Philip graduates and what they have been doing.



Recently, we received word that Melissa Hader, a freshman at DePaul College Prep, received Honors with Distinction for the first semester. She is eighth in her class of 178 students. Ian Hansen, a Freshman at Senn High School, is enrolled in the dance program and has the number one ranking in his freshman class. His sisters, Callista, a senior, and Kayla, a junior, made High Honor Roll for this first semester at Senn High School. All three Hansen's were recognized for their academic achievements at an honors ceremony.

Emily Schau, a sophomore at Niles North High School, is on the debate team. She has traveled across the country including to Las Vegas and recently to the Harvard University to compete in debates. Theo Huston, a freshman at Roycemore High School, made the Junior Olympics team in fencing.

Congratulations to our alumni on their achievements! Keep up the great work.

If you have news to share about a St. Philip alum, please pass it on to Mrs. Tennis (dtennis@stphiliplutheran.com). We would love to include the information in upcoming Echo articles.



Service Assistants

Nursery:

- March 1 – Karen Anderson
- March 8 – Karen Huston
- March 15 – Dee Dee O'Connor
- March 22 – Karen Anderson
- March 39 – Karen Huston

Lector:

- March 1 – Thom Paker
- March 4 – Donna Tennis
- March 8 – Nancy Bowman

- March 11 – Lynn Walsh
- March 15 – Karen Hustom
- March 18 – Donna Tennis
- March 22 – Nancy Bowman
- March 26 – Lynn Walsh
- March 29 – Thom Paker

Communion:

- March 1 – Matt Schau & David O'Connor
- March 8 – Thom Paker & Brian Tennis
- March 15 – Chris Amundson & David O'Connor
- March 22 – Tanner O'Connor & David O'Connor
- March 29 – Matt Schau & Chris Amundson

Ushers:

- March 1 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
- March 4 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
- March 8 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
Theo Huston
- March 11 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
- March 15 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
Theo Huston
- March 18 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
- March 22 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
- March 25 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
- March 29 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)
Thom Paker

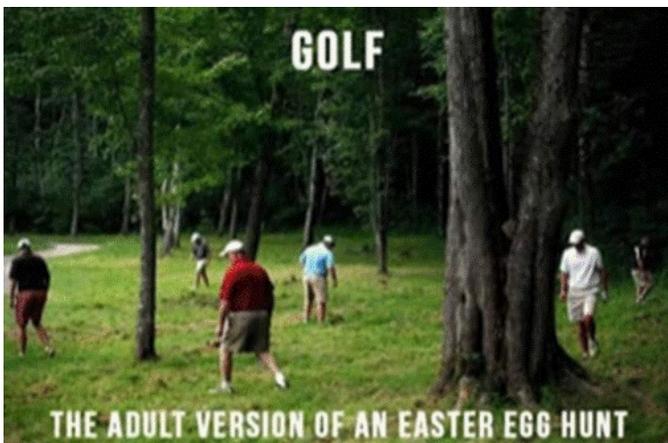
Acolytes:

- March 1 – Aiden N
- March 4 – Andrew V
- March 8 – Emily Schau
- March 11 – Hannah Schau
- March 15 – Tre O'Connor
- March 18 – Aiden N
- March 22 – Ty O'Connor
- March 25 – Hannah Schau
- March 29 – Theo Huston



March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 – Linsey Krakowka | 19 – Hannah Aztlan |
| 3 – Christopher Iverson
Thom Paker | 22 – Alma Gartner |
| 4 – Jessica Hannon | 23 – Abigail Moriarty |
| 6 – Richard Ardelean | 24 – Elizabeth Johnson |
| 9 – C. Melissa Ardelean | 25 – Patrick Larsen |
| 15 – Hannah Tinder | 26 – Jack Jacobson |
| | 29 – Charles Alvarado |



**Try to remember,
the greener grass
across the fence
may be due to a
septic tank issue.**

