

# GATHERING Together

As a church we come together on Sunday mornings to worship and praise God. One of the enjoyable things about gathering with other people for worship is the opportunity to be part of the community and build relationships. Before or after worship there is time for fellowship to talk, connect and meet new people. It helps us to know we are not alone in our faith and walk with God. God doesn't want us to be alone when it comes to our faith, God wants us to be part of a community. Jesus created community when he was on earth, among his disciples. They were able to walk alongside Jesus, ask questions, care for each other, support one another and encourage one another. This is the purpose of Small Group Ministry, and why we **GATHER** together in small groups for Bible study, fellowship, activities and hobbies.

Many have shared with us that the best way to get involved and to get to know people is by joining a small group, attending a Bible study or serving God by volunteering. It is the desire of St. Philip to offer opportunities for everyone to join a small group that interests them. This means having small groups around hobbies, interests, topics, Bible studies and more. When we are in a small group, we have the opportunity to truly get to know others on a deeper level.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

- Matthew 18:20



At St. Philip, we strive to intentionally build relationships, through Christ, to grow and serve. Relationships are formed and people grow together when they gather and spend time together. While it takes time to be part of a group like this, it is the most enriching and fulfilling thing we can do, for we feel that we belong and people care about us. I encourage you to join a small group and commit to it for at least two months. When we commit to something and stick with it, it is amazing how God blesses us with deeper relationships with others and even a deeper

relationship with God. Life gets busy and life gets tough, but the importance of gathering together cannot be underestimated. Whether it is gathering online or in person, the act of gathering is what allows us the opportunity to get to know other people and build relationships.

Your tithes and offerings to St. Philip Lutheran Church allows us to host events, organize small groups and Gather people together. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Philip Lutheran Church



• 1972-2022 •

2022  
Stewardship  
Appeal

# CELEBRATING 50 Years of Ministry!

When did you first attend a worship service or event at St. Philip Lutheran Church? We all have our own story of how we first joined this congregation. God has drawn all of us to this church at some point, which means we all have our own story of St. Philip. There are still a few members who are able to say that they signed the charter and were there on May 21, 1972 when St. Philip became an officially organized church of, at that time, the Lutheran Church of America. This next year, on May 22, 2022, we look forward to celebrating 50 years of ministry at St. Philip Lutheran Church. What an amazing thing for us all to **CELEBRATE!**



*Celebrating the  
50th Anniversary  
on May 22, 2022*

We thank and praise God, for God has lead and guided this congregation for the past 50 years through many pastors and leaders in this church. While there have been ups and downs over the past 50 years, God has certainly blessed St. Philip and those who have been part of our community.

St. Philip has impacted many individuals, families and children throughout its ministries. God has worked through our congregation to bring many people to faith, guide them in worshipping God and teaching them about God. Through worship and the ministries of St. Philip, individuals have grown in their faith and built a stronger relationship with God. Over the past 50 years, **1055** people have been baptized at St. Philip and **583** youth affirmed their baptism and were confirmed.



God continues to work through St. Philip Lutheran Church to lead and guide us in working towards our mission of intentionally building relationships through Christ to grow and serve! God has so much in store for St. Philip this next year, for the next 5 years and for the next 50 years! Think about the people God will reach through us, and the work we do as people of God! We invite you to join in God's work at St. Philip!

Your tithes and offerings to St. Philip Lutheran Church allows us to do this work God has called us to. Thank you for your generosity!

# SERVING Others, Serving God

Over the past year and a half, COVID-19 has impacted the **SERVE** ministries of St. Philip Lutheran Church. Our Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry went from serving an average of 32 families a week to serving over 100 families a week. St. Philip went from serving homeless families in our church, through Family Promise, to supporting Family Promise financially. The Sr. High youth, in 2021, went on a mission trip to Oklahoma City to do service projects for organizations that serve those who are hungry, in need of medical care and care for children and youth after school. The impact on our SERVE ministries has meant that there was a larger need of care in our community and in our world. We are grateful that we were able to respond to that need as God worked through us to care for those in need.

In 2022, our SERVE ministries will continue to work hard as we will be building on these ministries and growing our service to those in need. This next year, St. Philip will begin to host Love INC's diaper ministry, Safe Haven. Through this ministry, we will be meeting with, praying with and providing diapers to families in need. This ministry is not just about providing diapers for families, but also about building relationships with the families to truly care for them and support them to the best of our ability. This next summer, our Sr. High youth will be going to Minneapolis, MN for the ELCA Youth Gathering where they will learn, grow and serve! St. Philip will once again be hosting homeless families in our church, through Family Promise. In addition, our Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry will continue to provide food for families in need in Sheridan. God has certainly blessed this ministry with many grants and many amazing volunteers. We are grateful to be able to continue to make such a big impact in Sheridan.

## The Impact of Serving

As Martin Luther said, our faith leads us to serve. It is out of our faith and our relationship with God that we turn towards those in need to care for them and help them in their need. Serving those in need, volunteering and doing service projects impacts the lives of so many. There is a feeling of fulfillment, purpose and impact. When you serve, you make a difference in the world and you make a difference in someone's life. The ELCA has used the phrase, "God's Work. Our Hands." When we serve, we truly are doing God's work with our hands; God is working through us. This is why it is so important for us to volunteer, and this is why our youth come back from mission trips feeling inspired, accomplished, and spiritually filled.

