



Our Mission .....

## ***Growing, Serving, Sharing Christ***

### ***Saint Philip Lutheran***

#### **Church and School**

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#### **The Pastor's Page**

Pastor Tom Engel

#### **What's the Hold-Up?**

We are taught to be patient. And I need a lesson in the virtue of patience everytime when I am in heavy traffic that is moving slower than an old turtle taking a leisurely stroll on a hot day. When I am staring at the back of the same old truck that is breathing out toxic diesel fumes, I find myself getting impatient and asking, "What's the hold-up?" Is it a car accident, road construction, or a broken-down car jamming up cars for miles?

I think we can agree that patience is a strong virtue. When I am stuck in a traffic jam, it might be better just to accept the situation and put on some good music and chill. Patience is a high virtue because it is taking things in stride and putting off anger. Most of life takes patience. Expecting instant results is not always realistic. A pot of water does not want to boil, so it seems when it is anxiously watching.

But is it possible that a person can be too patient? When it comes to getting results in some situations, can urgency be a factor in getting what we need to have? Like an emergency medical team caring for a person suffering from a heart attack, those doctors and nurses need everything right at hand at the moment that they need it to save the patient. In some situations, nanoseconds matter, and I can see a lead doctor barking out orders if his demands are not instantly met.

If I am in a job interview, and in telling about myself, I might say, "I consider myself to be an impatient person. I like to see things get done. I do not accept



procrastination. The time is always right to increase production, to make a sale, and grow profits."

I am not sure this will make me stand out from the other applicants, but I think employers are not looking for people who are satisfied with the status quo. If anything is going to be different, there has to be change. And the best time for a change for the better is now!

I know that we talk about the patience of Job. In his trials when everything was taken from him by the devil, Job had to wait for God to restore him. And to tell the truth, Job was not always that patient. He did say something about how everything belongs to God, so God can give what is His, and He can also take it away. This belief shows how much Job trusted God.



But we see how Job grew very impatient with his situation of illness, poverty, and loss of loved ones. At one point, Job cursed the day that he was born. Job did complain about his terrible life and did blame God for his problems that were coming one right after another.

When Scripture talks about patience and how we are to have patience, especially as we are waiting for Jesus to come again, it uses Job as an example of waiting. To be clear, Scripture does not say Job is patient, but what it does say is that Job knows how to persevere through hard times.

Job does have his litany of complaints against God, but Job still stays with God in all of his troubles. Scripture says that in our suffering we are not to be angry. Any amount of anger is a threat to our relationship with God and any person. Anger leads to resentment, hostility, and the worst of all emotions, self-pity. As we are feeling sorry for ourselves, we can become absorbed in our suffering.



In our anger, we are closing the door of any further talk about healing the hurt. When we are upset, we risk the

opportunity that we have to restore the relationship with the means of reconciliation.

Scripture makes very clear that in this life and in the world, we will have and see a great amount of suffering. This suffering of all kinds is to be expected. As humans, we are prone to physical and emotional pain. In a way, I want to say that what we experience as far as suffering at any point in our lives is normal. In saying this about normalizing suffering, I want to be sure that I am not



giving the impression that I am not minimizing any kind of suffering to make it seem so ordinary that it does not have significance.

Any circumstance in our lives has meaning. That everything has purpose makes having anger a hold-up to moving on with our lives in joy and peace. If anger can do anything for us in a good way, it can be a red flag that is showing that something is going wrong. But once the red flag of anger has got our attention, we need to turn to real help.

In Job's story, Satan had played a part. God and Satan were in heaven having a discussion about Job. In this discussion, Satan said that Job had faith because God had made Job very prosperous. Satan wanted to see what would happen if Job had everything taken away from him. To sum up that story, Job did go through a rough time in all of his losses, but he did hang-in there with God and kept his faith.

Satan has tried and will be trying until the Last Day to test our faith, and God will let him keep testing us through all kinds of trials. But we need to understand that although Satan is trying to take us down, all that Satan can do is try. In all of his attempts to harm us, God gives him a line that he cannot cross, for Satan can never take our faith away from us.



God has told us that He has taken vengeance on Satan. At some point after creation, Satan who was once a good angel rebelled against God. Although God does give free-will when it comes to following Him or not, God will not let anyone harm His children. In the story of Job, God told Satan that he could only go so far when testing Job.

When we are in our trials, we need to remember that Satan cannot take our relationship with God away from us. Satan tries to get between us and God, but he can never block us from God. Satan is defeated. After the first humans had fallen into sin with the help of Satan's temptation, God promised a Savior to come and save people from sin and the power of Satan.

God delivered on His



promise in sending His son Jesus to battle against Satan. The battle ground was the cross where Jesus died for the sins of the world, and on the third day after his death, Jesus rose from the dead and claimed victory over Satan, sin, and anything that wants to harm us.

God takes vengeance against all that wants to harm us, and He wants to give back to us anything that we might have lost along the way with our encounter with Satan and sin. Looking at it this way, a lawsuit has been filed against Satan. In the trial, Satan and sin lose, and God compensates us.



This compensation that we receive is God's love in Christ. We now have everything that we need in every situation. When we sin, we have forgiveness. When we grieve, we have comfort. When we struggle, we have power. When it seems that life is one problem after another and brings us down, we have hope. When we are feeling weak, we have strength. When we are sad, we will find again. When we have conflict, we will find peace.

Although it is a process to get through many of the struggles that we have in a life with some troubles that are here to stay like chronic pain, we find like St. Paul when he asked God to remove an affliction that all that is needed is God's grace. By the grace of God, we will get through this life all that way to eternal life. In heaven, all will be perfectly right with everything forever.

We look forward to heaven, the goal of our faith, and we anticipate that day with joy. Until we reach heaven, we will have to be patient. And we can be calm in the very midst of suffering because our Lord is wanting to give us all of His grace in Christ all the time. In every situation in life, we can know that there is never a hold-up on God's grace.



### **A Message from the President**

Greetings Everyone,

Can you believe it's 2020? Seems like only yesterday there was a big concern the world would come to an end because the millennium changed. Just like the year 2000, there seems to be some big concern that 2020 will bring about world disaster. God provided for us in 2000 and He will provide for us in 2020. God provides everything we need. There is never a need to fear. As we begin this new decade, we should reflect on all the good things God provides for us.

I recently read a devotion from Lutheran Church Charities, posted by Rich Bimler on January 1, 2020, which I would like to share with everyone. It includes some important points to consider in this New Year.

1. Remember that our hope is in the name of the Lord. Even though we have considered all the facts, there is always hope in Christ!
2. Ask for Help—God’s gifts are in the people around you!
3. Laugh out loud—at yourself and at others, and give people permission to laugh!
4. Take care of your body—It’s the only one you have!
- 5 Say “Thank You” to people as often as you can! “Thank You!”
6. Look for trouble—More specifically, look for the troubled—the lonely, the sick, those who think God has forsaken them.
7. Talk to children regularly—it’s good for them, and for us!
8. Remember your present mood is never permanent.
9. On a scale of 1 to 10, your friends deserve a 12!
10. Remember, that life is not fair, but God is gracious.
11. Be—the biggest picture window to the Gospel that you can be.
12. Things are not always as they seem—see life through the Cross and the Empty Tomb!

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and was able to celebrate our Savior’s birth with friends and family. I was blessed to spend time with Donna’s family, and then leave for a short trip to Arkansas to see kids and grandkids and then to Kansas to visit long-time friends. God continues to bless me!

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. 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.

Here’s a brief recap of items as we move into this New Year:

\*Concerning the ECC Property: Our earnest money has been received and on deposit. We are awaiting a closing date. We anticipate the closing sometime at the beginning of spring.

\*Concerning the Budget: January begins the second half of our fiscal year. As I reported in December, the deficit is much lower than anticipated due to the generosity of our loving and caring congregation.

\*Concerning the Sign in front of Church: As most of you are aware, the masonry is all complete, the base is laid, and the landscaping is complete. We now need to decide what the main body of the sign should read. I would like to offer examples A and B (see within the Echo). Please consider these options and email me your response (btennis@dohservices.com). Our goal is to make a final decision by the Voters’ Meeting at the end of January.



Finally, I hope to see everyone at the Voters’ Meeting on Sunday, January 26 following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. There will be a Friendship Feast first, so please bring a dish to share. At the meeting, we will recap the first part of our fiscal year of our ministry at St. Philip. We will talk about many subjects that affect our ministry. I hope you will attend.

Thank you for all your support. Pray for the faculty, staff, the Board of Directors, and for one another at St. Philip.

Yours in Christ,  
Brian Tennis  
President

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

11/18/2019 – Conference room, St. Philip Lutheran School

**Present:** Reverend Thomas Engel **Directors:** Brian Tennis, Karen Huston, Karen Andersen, Diana Maanum, and Dianne Moriarty **Advisory:** Donna Tennis  
**Excused:** Mark Iverson, Pete Nabhani and Nancy Bowman **Guests:** None

**Reports Received:** Meeting Agenda, Commission on Education and Principal’s Report.



**7:05 p.m.** Meeting opened with prayer. A devotion based upon Psalm 55, about casting one's cares on the Lord, was read.

**Minutes - October 2019 Meeting** The minutes of the October Board of Directors Meeting were approved with spelling corrections.

**School Update** Our new marketing person, Andrea Bateman, continues to work on the St. Philip website. The operation of the new website will be simplified and standardized. Website security is being updated. For the Cookie Outreach program this month, cookie donations were received and several volunteers on Sunday baked additional goodies and boxed them for distribution. Attendees of the St. Philip Thanksgiving potluck dinner, Wednesday, will be encouraged to distribute the cookie boxes. The planning of Advent services is underway. As part of the Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation (CLEF) 's Medallion program, which promotes educational excellence, the Commission on Education is studying the topic of School Culture. School enrollment remains steady. Plans for the next school year are being initiated.

**Property Update** The agreement for the sale of the ECC parking lot and building was signed, with some sadness, on 11/06/2019. The feasibility of letting groups Infinity Arts Academy and We Got Game use some of our facilities, or allowing neighborhood persons to park in the School parking lot, will be examined and considered in the light of scheduled commitments and insurance coverage. The sound system person Pete recommended reset the equipment used for streaming Worship services, and the live streaming is now working again. The volume control for the childcare room was identified too. Simplification of the live streaming process and equipment can be pursued. The possibility of using Facebook Live to stream future Worship services, and whether it is possible to embed a Facebook Live video on St. Philip's website, so that the service could be viewed either through Facebook or via the website, will be explored. Work on the School's electronic sign continues. The distributor for Salem Lutheran's playground set, which St. Philip is considering purchasing, will be contacted about the availability of replacement poles. Quotes for School floor and wall work are being obtained.

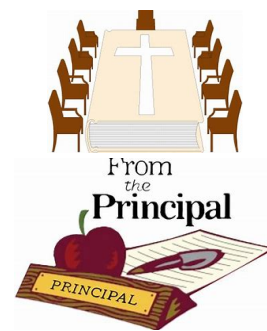
**Financial Update** As per the previous month, due to our loving and generous congregation our organization has only a small budget shortfall. On 11/15 the Illinois State's Attorney General signed off on a disbursement change that was requested by another beneficiary of the Cleaver Trust. Accordingly \$128,333.33 from the trust was then placed in St. Philip's Northern Trust endowment account. The Board of Directors approved for \$55K to be moved to St. Philip's checking account, to be used to pay off the balance due to Concordia Health Plans. The remainder will stay in the endowment

fund, bringing the total of the endowment fund to approximately \$140K. The final limestone pieces for the St. Philip sign, to replace the one destroyed by a car, were obtained.  
Sievverville

**Information Sharing** Pastor Haney advised that Emmanuel Batavia may have some Consecrated Stewards program materials that could be shared with St. Philip. Ways to make Sunday Worship services a meaningful experience for children were discussed. Jr. High (grades 5 through 8) and High School Bible studies will begin after Christmas. The Jr. High Bible Study will take place on the 2nd Sunday of the month, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The High School Bible Study will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For this year's three Wednesday evening Advent Worship services, the pre-service suppers will be prepared by the following service groups: Dec 4th Lydia Guild, Dec 11th Girl Scouts, Dec 18th Board of Directors. All St. Philip Church & School families and friends are invited to these Advent services with supper. Wishes for this year's Giving Tree, including funds for a commercial dishwasher for the School building and communion cups for Worship, were presented.

**8:41 p.m.** Meeting ended with prayer.

Minutes submitted respectfully,  
Dianne Moriarty, Clerk



### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – JANUARY 2020** ***St. Philip Lutheran School + Chicago, Illinois***

Live Joy:fully!

Over the Christmas break I was reminded of our school year theme, Live Joy:fully, as Mr. Tennis and I traveled to Arkansas to visit two of our three children, their wives, and four of our seven grandkids. We then traveled to Kansas to spend New Year's with long-time friends. During this time, we had the JOY of spending quality time with our family and friends. While we are grateful for the regular phone calls throughout the year, spending time in person brings great joy!

We had many laughs as we played games and spent time with family. Our oldest granddaughter is a senior in high school and loves animals. She has chickens, rabbits, dogs, and a cat. Her goal is to become a veterinarian. We had the joy of listening to our kindergarten grandson read to us. Our three-year-old granddaughter is a ball of fire, who loves to make creations with piles of glitter glue that takes several days to dry. Our youngest granddaughter, who turns two in March, has curly hair, loves to eat Cuties and run around the house. Our time together was precious, but always too short.

From Arkansas, we traveled to Wichita, Kansas to spend time with our friends. Whenever we get together, we always laugh, play games, and reminisce. These are our friends, who, God-willing, we plan to retire together and travel in our motor homes. The time spent together over New Year's brought us joy with time to relax.

Even though our time away was short, Mr. Tennis and I were truly blessed this past Christmas break with opportunity to spend time with family and friends. Thanks be to God! It was a special reminder to relish the time spent with others and soak in the JOY that family and friends bring.

## GIVING TUESDAY RECAP

Thank you to all who contributed to Make a Wish Foundation during our Giving Tuesday campaign. Our goal was to raise \$250.00. With your support, we raised over \$300.00. Thank you for your donation. St. Philip is grateful to give to other charities.

### St. Nicholas Celebration in Review



A fun time was had by all during our St. Nicholas Celebration on December 7. The church basement was filled with children and families painting ornaments, decorating cookies, making outreach bags and visiting Santa.

Thank you to all who helped organize and purchase items for this event. Thank you to our Senior Buddies and other volunteers who helped during the event. A special thank you goes to Santa, who took time out from the busy season to visit with our children and their families.

### Visitors

The last week before Christmas break we had two families visit St. Philip who were looking for a school for the next school year. These families heard about St. Philip through former St. Philip families and the new website. We invited their children to participate in a shadow day at St. Philip. We anticipate more

families visiting St. Philip in the upcoming weeks and months. Won't you help us spread the word about St. Philip?



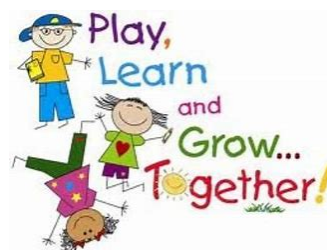
The staff thanks everyone who remembered them so generously during the Christmas season. We are blessed. The Christmas greetings and gracious gifts are greatly appreciated!

God has great things in store for St. Philip in the New Year. As we look to the New Year and 2020, may each of you Live Joy:fully.

In Christ,

*Donna Tennis*

Principal



**Lydia Guild**  
By Barb Uber

The Lydia Guild was very busy during the month of December. We prepared the dinner for the first Wednesday in Advent. The following Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, we helped with Santa's visit to St. Philip. The children enjoyed a picture with Santa along with decorating an ornament.

Finally we had a Ladies Night Out at the Diversey River Bowl restaurant. It was delicious!

There is no meeting in January but we will have a movie night on Tuesday Feb 18



## **“JOY TO THE WORLD”**

By Gloria Messerschmidt

Isaac Watts, the author and composer of this Hymn, was born in 1674. He was a prolific English poet and Hymn writer. In fact, there are 15 Hymns in our Lutheran Hymnal, “The Lutheran Service Book,” with Hymn texts written by Isaac Watts.

In 1719, 300 years ago, he published a book of his poems. Each poem was based on a Psalm. One of the poems, based on Psalm 98, was not written to be a song. However, in time, this poem was set to music, by the composer, George Frederic Handel. Then, a Century later, the 2nd half was adapted and set to the music that we know, by a Boston Music teacher, Lowell Mason. This became the well-loved Christmas Carol, “Joy to the World.”

“Joy to the World, the Lord is come,  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room.  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven  
and Heaven and nature sing.”  
LSB 387



## **January Service Assistants**

Nursery:

January 5 – Karen Huston  
January 12 – Dee Dee O’Connor  
January 19 – Karen Anderson  
January 26 – Karen Huston

Lector:

January 5 – Lynn Walsh  
January 12 – Donna Tennis  
January 19 – Nancy Bowman  
January 26 – Thom Paker

Acolyte:

January 5 – Ty O’Connor  
January 12 – Aiden N  
January 19 – Theo Huston  
January 26 – Emily Schau

Communion Assistants:

January 5- Tanner O’Connor & David O’Connor  
January 12 – Chris Amundson & Brian Tennis  
January 19 – David O’Connor & Thom Paker  
January 26 – Matt Schau & Thom Paker

Deacon & Ushers:

January 5 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)  
Theo Huston  
January 12 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)  
January 19 – Johann Huprich (Deacon)  
Thom Paker  
January 26 – Joe Eipl (Deacon)  
Theo Huston



## **January Birthdays**

14 – David O’Connor  
18 – Carline Poskonka  
27 – Dee Dee O’Connor



**Apparently you  
can't use  
'beefstew' as a  
password.**

**It's not stroganoff.**

Just bought a book from IKEA



Examples of the sign in front of St. Philip

"A"



**ST. PHILIP  
LUTHERAN**

*The Lutheran Church Missouri - Synod*

"B"



*St. Philip  
Lutheran*

*The Lutheran Church Missouri - Synod*