

SPD New Member Orientation

Monday, Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

If you are interested in membership at St. Philip the Deacon, you are invited to attend this informational class to learn more about this faith community, our mission and ministry. We will plan to receive new members on Sunday, Sept. 27 at the 9:30 a.m. service. You may register online at spdcl.org/register or by contacting Cindy Carlson at ccarlson@spdcl.org.

Children and Youth Programs

Fall Registration is open!

Many of our fall programs and classes, such as Sunday School and Confirmation, are opening up for registration starting Aug. 1. Check out our registration page at spdcl.org/register.

- **Childcare Center**
Sunday mornings at all services
- **Sunday School and Sunday Friends**
Sundays at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.
- **5th Grade Gathering** (5th graders—2 monthly programs
Wednesday evenings 6–7:30 p.m.)
- **Confirmation** (6–8th grade, 9th grade)
Wednesday evening at 6:30–7:30 p.m.
- **Koin** (9–12th grade) Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.
- **Children's and Youth Choirs**

Join a Choir!—Children and Adults

Did you know that St. Philip the Deacon has four choral ensembles and a handbell choir that perform during worship services throughout the program year? To register or learn more about our choral ensembles or handbell choir, visit spdcl.org/register, or reach out to Sam Grace, our director of music, at sgrace@spdcl.org or JoBeth Ranfranz, our handbell choir director, at jranfranz@spdcl.org. All are welcome, and no experience is necessary.

Sanctuary Choir (adults)

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 9
Wednesdays at 7–8:30 p.m.
*Choir Kick-off dinner is Sept. 9 at 6 p.m.

Children's Choirs—beginning Tuesday, Sept. 8

Dynamic Deacons (K–2nd grade)
Tuesdays at 5–5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir (3rd–5th grade)
Tuesdays at 5:35–6:05 p.m.

SPD Singers (6th–12th grade)—beginning Wed. Sept. 16
Wednesdays at 5:15–5:55 p.m.

SPD Ringers Handbell Choir—beginning Tuesday, Sept. 8
Tuesdays at 7–8 p.m.

Worship Assistants

As we begin a new program year, adults and youth are invited to register to serve as worship assistants at one of the four weekend worship services. You may register at spdcl.org/register. Opportunities include:

- Reading the Gospel (adults)
- Reading the Lesson (children and youth)
- Serving Communion (adults and youth)
- Participating in the Processional (9:30 a.m. service)

You may register as an individual, couple or family

End-of-Summer Lawn Bowling

Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Brookview Golf, Golden Valley

Are you looking for an opportunity to connect with others in our faith community? Enjoy a summer evening of lawn bowling. It's easy and it's loads of fun! No experience is necessary, and all equipment will be provided. This event is for all adults, singles or couples. \$10 per person, register at spdcl.org/register. Registration deadline is Monday, August 24, 2026.

Meals of Wheels Coordinator

Wayzata-Plymouth Meals on Wheels is seeking a Program Coordinator to help ensure nutritious meals reach neighbors in our community. **Position is paid, part-time, with flexible hours.** If you enjoy working with volunteers while making a meaningful difference in people's lives, we'd love to hear from you. Call 763-553-7762 and leave your name, phone number, and a brief message and we will get back to you.

Men's Ministry Kick-off

Sunday, Sept. 20 at 12 noon

This fall, St. Philip the Deacon is excited to launch a new Men's Ministry—a welcoming community for men of all ages and stages of life. Through Christian Fellowship, Study, and Service, there will be a variety of opportunities to build friendships, grow in faith, serve others, and become more deeply connected to the life of the church. We'll kick things off on Sunday, Sept. 20, gathering to watch the Minnesota Vikings, enjoy a great meal featuring smoked meats, and share some good fellowship. There's a lot planned for the year ahead, and whether you're already active at St. Philip the Deacon or looking for a new way to get connected, there's a place for you. Come and be part of it! There is no cost for the event, but for planning purposes, please register at spdcl.org/register. Questions, contact Pastor Mark Schmidt at mschmid@spdcl.org or 763-475-7127.

Books for Sale

Over time we have collected a number of books from past Faith & Life speakers and class materials. Rather than having them stored away, we thought others might want to read them. Stop in Fellowship Hall to check out the book table. You are invited to make a free will offering for any books you choose.

The Conversation

Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 1 p.m.

"The Conversation" provides members of the congregation with an opportunity for community, care and connection. Our guest speaker will be photographer and storyteller, Doug Ohman. Doug will be taking us on a journey to recognize and celebrate the 250 year anniversary of the United States. No registration needed. We will plan to meet in Fellowship Hall.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 6:30–7:30 a.m.

Beginning Sept. 9

The Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study & Fellowship will be studying the book of James. It's open to men of all ages. Meets in the Nook (park in the West Lot - Door A). If you have questions, contact Ed Wasz, at 763-218-5351 or edwin.wasz@gmail.com.

Holy Grounds

Monday mornings at 9:45–10:45 a.m.

Beginning on Sept. 14

This class will be very practical and hands-on as participants experience a time for slowing down, devotional prayer and study, a new daily practice, and faithful conversation. It all begins with coffee and fellowship. Childcare is available upon request. Registration is not required. For more information contact Amanda Berger at aberger@spdlc.org.

Intro to the Old Testament Workshop

Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m.–Noon

During this two-hour introduction to the Old Testament, we will explore how paying attention to the types of texts (genres) in the Bible can help us to understand the ways ancient readers would have interpreted it, as well as to ask better questions of it today. We'll consider how the Old Testament helps us understand the New Testament and the life of Jesus, but also how it makes meaning on its own. Instructor: Dr. Cameron B.R. Howard. Register at spdlc.org/register.

Practicing the Presence of God

Monday, Sept. 21 and 28 at 6:30–7:30 p.m.

As we move into the rhythms of fall, join us for a two-week exploration of the reflections of Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection's classic reflections, "The Practice of the Presence of God." Through discussion, reflection, and practical application, we will cultivate a greater attentiveness to God's presence in the ordinary moments of daily life. *Note: Reading the book is not required. Register at spdlc.org/register.

The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work

Friday, Sept. 25, 6:30–8:30 p.m. and

Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

The Seven Principles Couples Program is a two session workshop. It is a marriage enrichment and pre-marital prep workshop for couples based on the scientific research published in the book *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by Dr. John Gottman, with Nan Silver. No need to read the book before attending. The Seven Principles Couples Program format includes lectures and private couple exercises. Participants will NOT share their personal problems in front of others. Register at spdlc.org/register. Instructor: Pastor Makayla Dahleen.

Water from a Deep Well, Part 1: The Early Church

Mondays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 at 6:30–7:45 p.m.

Understanding the history of the church and how people have been shaped as disciples of Jesus over the centuries is a well spring for our lives with God today. Amanda Berger will facilitate this multi-part series as we explore the deep legacy of faith and Christian practice that is ours as followers of Jesus. Part one will focus on the early church during the Roman era and through the foundations of Christian monasticism in the 4th century. Based on the book "Water from a Deep Well" by Dr. Gerald L. Sittser. Register at spdlc.org/register.

YOGA OPPORTUNITIES

Embodied Prayer: Yoga @ SPD

Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the CFL

For more information, contact Amanda Berger at aberger@spdlc.org, or by phone at 763-475-7139.

Chair Yoga

Mondays and Thursdays

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

We meet in the CFL. Enter at Door E on the east side.

Chair Yoga is a program for folks with limited flexibility or anyone who needs to take it easy on their joints. Payment is free will donation. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle. Questions: contact Kathy Hagedorn at 763-475-7138.

Chair Yoga Retreat at the Landscape Arboretum

Oct. 22 from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Join us at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for a chair yoga practice on "Reflection." Take time for yourself to enjoy a chair yoga practice, a walk in the arboretum, box lunch, tram ride, and time with friends. Cost: \$60. per person. Early Bird Cost \$50 by Thursday, September 24, 2026.

Retreat includes transportation, practice, box lunch, and tram ride. Questions: contact Kathy Hagedorn at 763-475-7138 or khagedorn@spdlc.org.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

3-Year-Old Open House & Beginner's Bible

Wednesday, Sept. 2 from 4:30–6 p.m.

Three-year-olds and their parents are invited to an Open House in Room 101 on the lower level to receive their very own Bible! Join us for a special sharing time to learn more about your Bible and personalize it for your use. Questions? Contact Kathy Hagedorn at khagedorn@spdlc.org or 763-475-7138.

6th Grade Confirmation and Parent Orientation

Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

6th grade students and their parents are encouraged to attend a Confirmation Orientation session. The meeting will be approximately an hour, will provide an overview of the program and curriculum, the calendar and expectations. Questions, contact Charlie Olson at colson@spdlc.org.

Youth Ministry on Wednesday Nights

Beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 16

- 5:15 p.m. SPD Singers
- 5:30 p.m. Pizza and Play
- 6:30 p.m. 6th–8th Grade Confirmation
- 7:30 p.m. Koin (Senior High Youth Group)

Note: 9th Grade Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Register at spdlc.org/register. For more information contact Charlie Olson at colson@spdlc.org or 763-475-7129 or Olsen Pancoast at opancoast@spdlc.org.

Growing Families

Have you recently found out you are expecting? Or are you adopting a child into your family? At St. Philip the Deacon, we want to support you and your family as it grows and develops. Let us know your big news! [Get in touch with us online](#) or contact: Kathy Hagedorn, Early Childhood and Children's Ministry at khagedorn@spdlc.org or 763-475-7138.

Baptism at SPD

We welcome baptisms of infants, older children and adults at St. Philip the Deacon. It is in the waters of baptism we are named and claimed as God's own. This sacrament is gladly offered for you and your family, regardless of membership status at SPD.

In preparation of a baptism, we have created a baptism video at spdlc.org/life-events. To schedule a baptism, please complete our [Baptism Information Form](#), which is available online at spdlc.org/life-events. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Bixby at nbixby@spdlc.org, or 763-475-7166.

Opportunities to Serve in the Children, Youth and Family Ministry 2026–2027 Program Year

Sunday School

A special invitation to adults:

Please consider serving as a small group leader in our Sunday School program. The program year begins on Sunday, Sept. 13 during the 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. worship services. We provide a Christian learning environment for the children through large group, small group, music and a host of other methods. Materials, background information, and lessons are provided. For more information contact Kathy Hagedorn at khagedorn@spdlc.org (preschool & kindergarten) or Norah Long at nlong@spdlc.org (Elementary 1st–4th grade).

Sunday Friends Buddy

SPD Children's Ministry uses a buddy system for children with special needs to help introduce them to the love of Jesus and make God's word come alive. The children are paired with a buddy who will build a relationship and assist them with learning opportunities within large, small or individual settings. For more information about being a buddy, please contact Kathy Hagedorn at 763-475-7138 or khagedorn@spdlc.org.

Confirmation Ministry—Wednesday evenings

Adults and high school youth are invited to serve in the Confirmation Ministry (6–9th grade) on Wednesday evenings in a variety of roles, from helping with Pizza & Play, to serving as a small group leader. If you would like to serve in youth ministry, please contact Charlie Olson at colson@spdlc.org.

CONNECTED AT SPD

Help us keep our contact information up to date.

Please let us know using our [online Update Contact Information form at spdlc.org/contact](http://spdlc.org/contact), or you may contact our membership coordinator, Nancy Bixby, with any changes at 763-475-7166 or nbixby@spdlc.org.

Prayer Requests

You can make a prayer request online by visiting our information request form at spdlc.org/contact. All requests will be held in prayer and kept in confidence. If you would like a pastor to call you please include your contact information.

Altar Flowers

You are invited to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year to beautify our sanctuary for worship. Cost is \$75 per bouquet. Your commemoration (for instance, to celebrate an occasion or remember a loved one) will be shared in the worship folder and on the livestream slideshow before worship at 9:30 a.m. [Sign up online to sponsor flowers](#), or call the church if you need assistance at 763-475-7100.

SERVING OTHERS

Interfaith Outreach Food Pantry Needs

The food shelf is a valuable resource to families in our local community. The Interfaith Outreach Food Shelf serves over 250 households per week and 44% of the people served are children. The food shelf is a safety net and supplemental resource for families and seniors who live on low and fixed incomes. The full list of food shelf donation needs can be found at iocp.org/outreach-services/food-shelf.

Share your Garden Produce with the Food Pantry

If you have an abundance of fresh garden produce please remember the Interfaith Outreach Food Shelf. Produce should be cleaned prior to drop-off and packed in bags or boxes. The Interfaith Outreach Food Shelf is located on Hwy. 101 and County Road 6, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. **Fresh garden produce is greatly appreciated!**

Free Bikes 4 Kidz Drop Off at SPD

Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Mark your calendar! St. Philip the Deacon will be a **drop site** for *Free Bikes 4 Kidz*!

Free Bikes 4 Kidz MN is a non-profit organization geared toward helping all kids ride into a happier, healthier childhood by providing bikes to those most in need. The public donates gently used bikes, FB4K organizes thousands of volunteers to clean and refurbish them, and then gives them away to kids in need. For more information, check out FB4Kmn.org.

Fall Habitat for Humanity Build

Monday, Oct. 19–Friday, Oct. 23

You are invited to join us as we use our gifts to make a difference in our community by participating in our Fall Habitat for Humanity Build. No experience necessary. 12-15 volunteers needed each day of the build. Volunteers must be 16 years old or older.

Dates: Monday, Oct. 19–Friday, Oct. 23
Time: 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Location: Minnetonka Mills
Build Type: New build, single-family home

You may register at spdcl.org/register. Questions? Contact Pastor Mark Schmid at 763-475-7127 or mschmid@spdcl.org.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) collaborates with synods, congregations, Lutheran ministries and other faith-based partners to accompany communities impacted by floods, hurricanes, wild fires, severe storms, and tornadoes. Since these natural disasters require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response and our partners support communities on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management and emotional and spiritual care.

100% of Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response are used to equip them to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Donate at ELCA.org/LDR. Gifts may also be designated to help in a specific area—for instance, hurricane, wild fires, severe storms, tornadoes, flood response or to provide assistance internationally.

CARE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

There is an AA chapter that meets at St. Philip the Deacon in the CFL on Tuesday evenings. Park in the lower level parking lot, and use Door E. For questions, contact Matt Geurink at mdgeurink@yahoo.com.

Caregivers Support Group

Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m.

This is a weekly meeting of people who are currently the primary caregiver for another adult. In many cases, members are spouses or adult children of someone who is living with dementia or other long-term illness, though the group is not specifically aimed at any single care scenario. Members gather to take a break from their setting, share ideas and support one another. Contact Susan Path, Parish Nurse, for more information: spath@spdcl.org or 763-475-7168.

Thrive Cancer Support Group

1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m.

Thrive is a support group for those who have been diagnosed with cancer. We will be addressing our fears and journey for hope. You will find support, emotionally and spiritually, in a confidential environment. The group **meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1–2 p.m.** Contact Susan Path, Parish Nurse spath@spdcl.org or 763-475-7168 with questions or zoom link.

Sanctuary of Survivors (SOS)

1st and 3rd Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

Sanctuary of Survivors is a faith-based support group for those who have lost a loved one by suicide. All emotions, all questions will be heard and honored by this group. All are welcome, wherever you are on your faith journey, including questioning or having a crisis of faith. Please contact Pastor Valerie Strand Patterson at vstrand@spdcl.org for information on how to join the group, including on Zoom.

Mental Health Connect

If you need help finding appropriate mental health care, there are resources available to help at Mental Health Connect. www.mhconnect.org Call or text 612-642-1220.

West Suburban Grief Coalition

Thursday afternoons, 4–6 p.m.

The West Suburban Grief Coalition is an extension of 15 area churches to help provide caring support and education for persons who are grieving the death of a loved one.

The West Suburban Grief Coalition meetings during the summer are being held at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 301 County Road 19, Excelsior, MN 55331.

All individuals are welcome, and no registration is needed. There is a brochure with more information available at the Hospitality Desk.