

**St Philip's/Redeemer Lutheran Initiative**  
**Isaiah 58:12 “To be restorers of the street and repairers of the breach”**

The core purpose of the St. Philip's/Redeemer Initiative is to work in partnership with the Minneapolis Police Department, Hennepin County Courts, Minneapolis Public Schools, and community residents to perpetuate hope and ensure just communities through a faith based collaborative. Our faith in action calls us to hold people accountable, to forgive and to heal. Our action takes several different forms:

- Partnering suburban and urban churches together with representatives from Hennepin County Courts and Prosecutors to ensure fairness for both offenders and the community
- Utilizing an electronic court watch system, in partnership with the Minneapolis Police Department and the City and County Attorneys' offices, to ensure residents a way to inform judges of the impact chronic offenders have on the bonds of community
- Providing a prison transition ministry re-entry program that works to help restore relationships and heal the community
- Partnering with Parenting with Purpose to instill hope, vision, and purpose into the lives of children of incarcerated parents
- Working on public criminal justice policies, in collaboration with the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Church of St. Stephen, that affect the poorest and most vulnerable in our society
- Working with and in Nellie Stone Johnson Community School, a Minneapolis public school, to provide restoration and healing for families of NSJ students

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The St. Philip's/Redeemer Lutheran Initiative is a faith based collaborative of faith organizations and other agencies working with the Minneapolis Police Department, the Hennepin County Courts, the Hennepin county and Minneapolis City Attorney's Office, the Minneapolis Public Schools and residents. The purpose of this collaborative is to ensure just communities for both offenders and people impacted by crime. The faith community is a decision-maker in the criminal justice system working in partnership to help restore relationships and work toward restoration for families and communities.

Opportunities for involvement:

1. Prison Ministries Program: In partnership with AMICUS volunteers are recruited to participate in a ten hour training program to provide tools for working with people in the correctional system. Following successful completion of the training men are matched with men from Lino Lakes Correctional Facility and women with women from the corresponding facility in Shakopee. The goal of this program is to reduce recidivism, which is currently about 60%. Faith based mentoring has been shown to drop that rate to 20%. The mentor relationship with a returnee is begun four months prior to release; mileage reimbursement is provided. When the returnee comes back to the community we ask that you continue the relationship for about 7 months; a \$25 month stipend is provided to the volunteer.
2. We partner with Parenting with Purpose which is a ministry which instills hope, vision and purpose in the lives of children of incarcerated parents. They need volunteers who would be willing to drive children 3-18 years of age to see their moms at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Shakopee.
3. Tutor Program: This is the third year of our commitment to working at Nellie Stone Johnson School. We work with a third grade class on math skills. The time is from 11:50-12:45 in Room 203. The school is located on 27<sup>th</sup> Bryant Ave North just 2 blocks west of Lyndale Avenue North. The commitment is for one hour a month.
4. We partner with the Sisters of St Joseph and Church of St Stephen's to work on criminal justice legislative issues. If you are want to become part of an e-mail action alerts we need your voice.
5. Participate in a dialogue with the courts on policy issues and other restorative justice action. Six to eight meetings a year are held.

I am interested in the following area(s) please contact Hillary Freeman at 612-673-2892.

- a. prison ministry \_\_\_\_\_
- b. providing rides for children of incarcerated parents \_\_\_\_\_
- c. tutor program \_\_\_\_\_
- d. legislative action \_\_\_\_
- e. restorative justice \_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_