



# ANCIENT LANDMARK No. 5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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### Greeting from the East:

#### Brotherly Love

As we begin the spring degree season, I am reminded of a cornerstone of Freemasonry: brotherly love. The initiation of new candidates, most recently in our Entered Apprentice degree, affords us the opportunity to make new friends, while strengthening bonds with Brothers through the shared experience of presenting a degree. We hope these new friends will keep coming to Lodge. We want them to not only finish their degrees and become Master masons but hope they will flourish and become a regular part of our lives, taking part in the fellowship and ritual work which makes this fraternity so great.

These friendships are the foundation of our fraternity. Without them we are merely a group of like-minded fellows from a variety of different social and economic backgrounds. There would be no passion, or certainly less, in what we do and how we do it. But this camaraderie is not unique to our own Lodge, nor should it be kept there. Our fellow Brothers, back in the 60's were keenly aware of this when they forged new friendships with a similarly named Lodge in Canada.

Ancient Landmark Lodge #3 in Winnipeg became our Sister Lodge, and those Brothers began a tradition we still enjoy today. Every two years the two lodges visit one another, taking turns hosting. This year is our turn to host, and we have great plans in the works!

The event always takes place over Labor Day weekend, so clear your schedule for Friday, August 30th to Sunday, September 1st, and help us show our Brothers from the north a great time. Come make new friends or celebrate with old ones through food, music, and fellowship. I can guarantee it will be a good time.

There is a much closer opportunity to create new friendships and show your brotherly love. On Monday, May 6th we will be visiting St. John's Lodge #1 in Stillwater. I would love to have a strong contingent of Brothers for this visit, so if you would like to join us, please reach out to the Lodge Secretary and let him know, so we can get an accurate head count to their Worshipful Master.

While we are on the subject of visits, we will have a representative from Accord at our May stated communication. Accord is a local charity and is one of the three

candidates chosen to potentially receive our Master's Endowment award this year. This presentation gives us an opportunity to ask questions and get a better feel for what they do and how they do it, so that we might make an informed decision when we choose which of the three will receive the award.

Brothers, I hope you are well, and that you are excited for the burgeoning warmth of spring. I look forward to seeing your faces soon and sharing the laughter and fellowship of your brotherly love.

Fraternally,

Danny Baker  
Worshipful Master

### Reflecting on Our Lodge

Greetings from the West! I was thinking today about how we have lost so many members and how no one seems to be joining lodges like they used to. How do we change this and show who we are? Well, we can do more in the community and host some fun things! We can host more fundraisers or open the lodge for more things to help first responders, such as giving them a meal.

But this is not why I am writing this. I am writing this to tell you how happy I am that I joined the lodge. Before I joined, I was shy and hated to meet new people, but now I am pleased to say I am not as shy as I used to be. The lodge has helped me out in so many ways. This is why I do not like seeing how we are losing members. I know some have moved away from the state where the lodge is. But we can ask the people we do know

who still live here to come by one lodge night.

We can offer to pay for their dinner or offer to drive them if they need a ride. There are also things we can do outside the lodge. We can ask a member out for coffee with some of our friends who might be a good fit for the lodge.

But for now, I want to leave you with this: let's try to find something to help our fellow man anyway we can. The world needs people like us. We all need to practice friendship and brotherly love and I do believe we could make this a better place if we showed these things.

Senior Warden,

Erik Starksen

### Expectations

As freemasons we all dedicate a great deal of time physically and mentally to the craft. Our degrees are expected to be essential performance times in the lodge. The better we show our newly admitted Brother we care for our Lodge and how it looks physically and psychologically for the Brother(s) participating in the degree work the more accepted and accomplished we feel as we welcome the brothers to the Fraternity.

As Master Masons we can visit other Lodges. I strongly urge any and all who haven't already done so, visit another lodge, and observe how they work, conduct their meetings and their degrees. Some may

not be too impressive while others will astound you.

EVERYONE trips over a line or two. Prompters should work with all members of the degree work to work out the prompts they will give and when they will give them. We are all human after all and decoding a cipher then memorizing the work takes some A LOT of time.

However, floor and rod work is another essential portion of the degree and if it is done correctly it will make the degree pristine. Foot work should be militant in manner. Corners should be cut at 90 degrees. You should salute the WM prior to addressing him always. And you should be standing erect, proud to be in the lodge you are in.

Rod work. If you carry a rod, when the Lodge is open you are at work and the rod should always be with you. When you walk it is at 22 and 1/2 degrees. When you are stopped it is grounded at 90 degrees. When you salute, hold your left elbow and forearm parallel to the floor, across your chest, drop the rod into the crook of your elbow, salute and retrieve your rod.

All movements should be crisp and clean.

Again, the most important thing to remember is we are human. We all have bad days and, we are all Brothers, we are here to support one another through those times.

Jim Grittner

Junior Warden

### A Message from the Secretary on the St. Paul Valley Scottish Rite – More Light in Masonry

As most of you know, there are several appendant bodies in Freemasonry. Three of the main ones are Scottish Rite, York Rite, and Shrine. I plan to discuss each of these in the coming months. Today I am focusing on Scottish Rite.

The St. Paul Valley of Scottish Rite meets at Plato most Wednesday evenings. The Rite provides More Light in Masonry by conferring additional degrees, numbered 4-32. Upon receiving the final 32nd degree, you are deemed a Master of the Royal Secret.

Degrees emphasize and expand your understanding of the excellent tenets and principles of Freemasonry. Through allegorical playacting, emphasis is placed on the importance of personal freedom, duty, religious tolerance, morality, etc. No one who experiences the 32 degrees comes away unaffected. These lessons really solidify our Masonic teachings and teach you to truly live out these lessons.

The St. Paul Valley members support several charities, the main one being RiteCare of Minneapolis-St. Paul. RiteCare helps deserving families get needed speech therapy services for young children, truly changing their lives. The various charities are shown on an excellent presentation that runs continuously on the monitor in the Plato banquet hall. If you do not get down to Plato very often, just send me an e-mail at [shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com) and I will send the presentation to you.

There are multiple ways to join in the Valley and take the degrees. The “normal” way is to join the fall class and take the degrees starting in September, ending in April of the following year. Alternatively, you can join in late November and get “caught up” with the fall class, continuing through April. Finally, there is a “Spring reunion” in late April in which you take the mandatory five degrees on a Friday evening and Saturday morning (similar to the One-day to Masonry).

Brothers, I have been active in the St. Paul Valley Scottish Rite for many years. It is VERY worth-while and the Brothers are great fun. Please contact me for questions and, of course, a petition!

Fraternally,

WB Shawn Hunter



Upcoming Events:

## April

Stated Meeting on Thursday, April 11.  
Dinner at 6pm and Meeting at 7pm.  
Business attire preferred.

Fellow Craft Degree, Thursday, April 25.  
Dinner at 6pm and Meeting at 7pm.  
Business attire preferred.

## May

Visit to St. John's Lodge #1  
(113 S. Main Street, Stillwater MN).

Dinner is at 6:30 and Meeting at 7:30pm.  
Business attire preferred.

Stated Meeting on Thursday, May 9.  
Dinner at 6pm and Meeting at 7pm.  
Business attire preferred.

## June

Master Mason Degree on Saturday, June 1,  
9am Breakfast, 10am Degree.  
Business attire preferred.

Stated Meeting on Thursday, June 13  
(last before we go dark for summer).  
Dinner at 6pm and Meeting at 7pm.  
Business attire preferred.

## July

Saints Game on Sunday July 28.  
Tailgating at Plato at 12n, game starts at 2pm.

## Labor Day Weekend

Canadian Visitation Weekend with all our friends from AL3. Events start Friday, August 30 and go through Sunday afternoon, September 1.

**Keep watching your emails and this space in the newsletter for added events as well in 2023.**

Photographs from Spring 2024 Entered  
Apprentice Degree 2024.





Bothers, each year we do a charitable donation called the Master's Endowment. The Master selects three charities based on the endowment's requirements and each has the opportunity to present to the Lodge who they are.

Below is a table of information about each of this year's charities. We will ultimately, as a Lodge, select during a stated meeting which will receive our funds. For additional information please contact the Master.

	<b>Bridging</b>	<b>Second Harvest Heartland</b>	<b>Accord</b>
	<a href="https://bridging.org/">https://bridging.org/</a>	<a href="https://www.2harvest.org/">https://www.2harvest.org/</a>	<a href="https://accord.org/">https://accord.org/</a>
<b>Tax</b>	<b>501(c)(3)</b>	<b>501(c)(3)</b>	<b>501(c)(3)</b>
<b>Federal ID #</b>	411725396	237417654	410972546
<b>Masonic</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>St. Paul</b>	<b>Bloomington / Roseville</b>	<b>Brooklyn Park</b>	Y
<b>75%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>300K</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>Service</b>	Y	Y	Y
<b>Notes</b>	Bridging empowers people to thrive in their homes by providing quality furniture and household goods for those pursuing housing stability.	Second Harvest Heartland is a hunger relief organization that solicits, receives and distributes donated grocery products to more than 900 social service agencies in 61 counties of Minnesota and Western Wisconsin; and an advocate for those who suffer from hunger.	Accord makes it possible for people living with disabilities or mental health issues to achieve their personal or career goals and live life to the fullest. We take a proven, evidence-based approach to improving personal outcomes and quality of life adults and families in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota, offering a unique array of transformative programs and services.
<b>KEY:</b>			
<b>Tax</b>	Tax designation, 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(10)		
<b>Masonic</b>	Honor Masonic values		
<b>St. Paul</b>	Operate in the City of St. Paul		
<b>75%</b>	Use 75% or more of donations for mission purposes		
<b>300K</b>	Have annual revenue of \$300,000 or more for the last five years		
<b>Service</b>	Organizations that serve senior citizens, social services, community welfare, veterans, non-sport related youth organizations		

PLEASE JOIN US LABOR DAY WEEKEND!



# CANADIAN VISITATION

Join us for a fun weekend as we welcome our visiting Brothers from Winnipeg



A N C I E N T L A N D M A R K L O D G E



# LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Friday, August 30  
to  
Sunday, September 1

