

The Philippian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Philip's Lutheran Church of Hastings, Minnesota

Come and Worship...Come and Serve...Come and Learn...Come as you are

...Philip said to him, "Come and see" John 1:46

February 2021

The Lenten Season Begins

Ash Wednesday
February 17

Lenten Worship
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

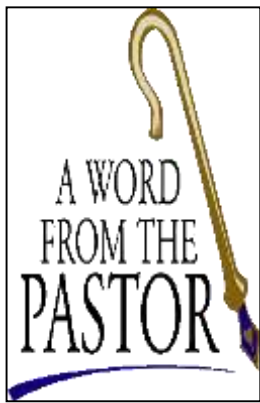


Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 7 at 10:30 am

“God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

*Prayer for “Time of conflict, crisis, or disaster”
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 76*

Like many of you, I was shocked on Wednesday, January 6 by the news and images of our U.S. Capitol being overrun by protesters who do not accept the voting process and results of the 2020 presidential election. Rioters sieged and broke through the Capitol’s doors and windows to enter the U.S. Senate chamber and the offices of lawmakers. In doing so, they temporarily disrupted the Constitutional duties of our elected officials to ratify the results of the election. Six people are dead as a direct result of this insurgence.



These shocking events emphasize the growing depth and breadth of our self-destructive national divide. January 6, 2021 will be forever remembered as a shameful day in our nation’s history and an occasion for mockery and scorn by a watching world.

Others may engage in debates about what incited the protesters to move from a rally with the outgoing president to the U.S. Capitol. I choose, instead, to focus on where we go from here as disciples of Jesus Christ.

As Christian citizens we rely on Scripture to guide us as God’s authoritative Word. In Paul’s letter to Rome, he proclaims “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities” as they have been “instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1) Conversely, John the Baptist was compelled to confront King Herod for his sin without regard of the consequences (Luke 3:19), and Peter and the disciples proclaimed that their ultimate allegiance was always to God. (Act 5:29)

The problem is that there were many rioters holding up Bibles or signs indicating that God somehow endorsed their disgraceful behavior. Any time your

faith compels you to act with violence against another human being or to treat them as someone whom God loves less than God loves you, you are not listening to Jesus. There are many instances when being a responsible citizen and faithful Christian may include peaceful protest to effect change. It may be to advocate that Black Lives Matter or to Make America Great. (On a personal note, I don’t believe we can make America great until we make black lives matter.)

Our current crisis — deep political divides, a relentless coronavirus pandemic that has prematurely cut short the lives of 360,000 Americans, economic uncertainty, and unresolved social unrest — moves God’s Spirit to summon the Church to the work of healing and reconciliation.

Let us be open and welcoming of civil discourse and deliberative dialogue — framed by scriptural and theological principles — about the complex issues our communities and our nation face. The goal of dialogue and civil discourse is to help people feel heard, engaged, empowered, and inspired to think and act better when grappling with complex issues, becoming well-informed, and discerning how to best respond to the needs and concerns of our communities.

God is summoning the Church in this season of national crisis to renew our covenant relationship with God and to make a vital contribution that works toward the health and wholeness of our deeply divided and wounded nation. God is calling us to imagine a new future with hope that is emerging before us. God summoned prophets in times of national crisis to warn and proclaim hope. They willfully responded to God summons with the words, “Here I am, Lord. Send me.” I trust our response as disciples of Jesus Christ will be the same.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier



Preschool Chatter

It has been so great to be back in our classrooms with our students after Christmas break. The children were thrilled to get back into some “normal” routines with their teachers and classmates. In the month of January, we learned about New Years, Epiphany, gingerbread, penguins, and snowman. Some of our fun activities included a gingerbread man hunt around the church, penguin dancing, indoor snowball fights and so much more. Our classrooms also were enriched with some new toys that we were blessed to be able to purchase through grant money. We also continue to enjoy our chapel times with Pastor and Miss Sarah twice a month. We can’t tell you how many times we get asked is it chapel day today. Another blessing at least to start the month of January was snow and temperatures that allowed us to enjoy outdoor winter playtimes!

Just a reminder...registration for the 2021-22 school year will begin for current preschool families as well as church families on February 16 at 8:00 am. Forms will be available on the welcome center or online starting Sunday February 14. If you know someone who is not a member but would like to join our preschool family next year, please invite them to start dropping off registration starting on the evening of February 22. While our typical open house format for registration will not be allowed this year due to Covid, we are working on an alternative plan. Families are always welcome to call or email us to set up private tours. Our phone number is 651-437-6541 and our email is preschool@splchastings.org. Our 2021-22 preschool sessions will be M/W/F 9 am-noon T/TH 9 am-noon. Also, anyone interested in M-F 9 am-noon may contact us for more information. Feel free to follow us on Facebook at St. Philip’s Preschool for more information as the registration time gets closer!

*Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors*

- AMONG OUR OWN -

Congratulations to...

Tony and Carole Sieben on their 52nd wedding anniversary February 8.

Sympathies...

Family of Elaine Kappas as they mourn her death.



THIS LENT, LET’S WALK WITH PETER!

Ash Wednesday will be February 17 when we start our annual Lenten journey. We will continue to worship online and in person (with Covid-19 protocols) Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Starting on Wednesday, February 24, we will enjoy our choir singing Holden Evening Prayer and begin our walk with the Peter. If you are at all like your pastor, there is a good chance you may see some of yourself in this faithful, fallible, follower of Jesus.

February 24	Peter’s Pride
March 3	Peter’s Complacency
March 10	Peter’s Misunderstanding
March 17	Peter Keeping a Distance
March 24	Peter’s Denial



GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE DECEMBER 2020 YTD

	Actual 12/20 YTD	Budget 12/20 YTD	Actual 12/19 YTD
General and Misc. Funds			
Income YTD	\$502,125	\$549,500	\$478,425
Expenses YTD	\$521,999	\$578,582	\$484,309
Over (short) YTD	(\$19,874)	(\$29,082)	(\$5,885)
Capital Fund	\$194,806	\$180,000	\$173,157

THANK YOU to all church members who donated gifts for the Santa Secret Shop 2020, those who volunteered their time to help distribute these and WELCA. Seventy families were recipients of large gift bags. Each family member received an item plus snack foods. Because of WELCA's generous gift of money, we were able to purchase a family game which was added to each of these gift bags. **THANK YOU.**

Vicki Pavlish

To my St. Philip's Family, I thank you for the many cards I received after my brother Cal Buck passed. Thank you for your kindness.

Vonnie Olson

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS



February 7	Luke 7:1-17 Roman Centurion and Raising the Widow's Son
February 14	Luke 9:28-45 Transfiguration
February 21	Luke 10:25-42 Good Samaritan
February 28	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 Lament over Jerusalem

THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT IS BEING MAILED TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS

We want everyone to have access to our annual report. To that end, print copies are being mailed to each household. Copies will also be available at the Welcome Center at St. Philip's and online at our website: www.spchastings.org if you do not receive one or misplace it.

ANNUAL MEETING

10:30 am FEBRUARY 7, 2021

**ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE
BOTH "IN-PERSON" AND VIA ZOOM.**

At this meeting we will accept reports from our staff ministry team and lay ministry team leaders, vote on lay leadership for the coming year, approve a budget, and ratify changes in our constitution so that we are compliant with our synod and larger church body.

As mentioned last month, there will be an option to participate via Zoom. This was made possible in November by a council action due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Zoom link for our Annual meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393650173>

You will need the green and red pieces of paper found in the annual report mailing (or from January's newsletter). We anticipate that this meeting will take much less than an hour. We already have a full slate of members who have agreed to serve in leadership positions and do not anticipate any conflict on the matters at hand. Thank you in advance for ensuring that we have a quorum!

CONSTITUTION REVIEW ZOOM MEETING

February 4 at 7:00 pm

At our Annual Meeting on February 7, we will be ratifying changes in our church constitution to be compliant with our synodical and churchwide bodies. These changes do not affect the way we do ministry or organize our leadership or anything like that. There is some language that has been updated for clarity and our old constitution had some typographical errors.

If you would like to look at the changes, there is a link to the updated constitution and a link to the changes on our website. There will be an opportunity to share any questions you may have with our council president, Lance Twedt and Pastor Geier on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm via Zoom. It will be the link used for our Annual Meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393650173>



On Saturday, February 6 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm you are encouraged to make sure that you will be able to participate in our Annual Meeting on Sunday February 7 by testing out your technology. You will be able to click the Annual Meeting Zoom Link on our church website or type in the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393650173>

This is the same link used for the Constitutional Review meeting, so if you successfully participated in that meeting you will be able to participate in the Annual Meeting. If you have any difficulty, you can call Pastor Geier at the church office (651) 437-6541 and he will do his best to help get you connected. We want everyone to be able to participate! Although it is possible to use a smartphone, it will work much better to use a computer to participate.

In order to be efficient as possible, when you log in to Zoom, please change your name to include every member that will be participating from that family unit and use your last name first. For instance:

"Geier, Greg and Amy". This will make it easier for our meeting hosts to record your participation. To change your name, right click on your name in the lower left hand corner of your screen and click "rename".

It will also be important to know how to use the "chat" feature if you desire to speak during the meeting. Otherwise it is very important to mute your microphone to minimize distractions. To mute you need to click on the microphone icon. After you write a comment that you would like to speak, you will have that opportunity. Your voice is important!

We will celebrate
our Zoom Holy
Communion
service after the
Annual Meeting
on February 7.



ST. PHILIP'S GARAGE AND PLANT SALE IS BACK!



On Saturday, August 7 at 8 am - 2 pm, dedicated and hardworking members of St. Philip's will proudly roll out its 2021, 17th Garage and Plant Sale. Covid-19 practices in force on this date will be maintained. (Any unforeseen set-back in Covid-19's advance would cause the Sale's cancellation).

The decision to plan a 2021 Garage and Plant Sale was not done in haste. St. Philip's has protected its members and visitors throughout the pandemic with cautious scheduling and personal education on how to protect oneself.

Our customary "June Sale" would have been too early. Waiting two months, (until August) gives more people an opportunity to be immunized. This is what prompted the Sale's planning.

The experience of the Garage and Plant Sale has proven to unite members in a beautifully unique way. Almost 100 adult members give their time during the week before the Sale, bringing goods and staging each department. People who did not know one another before, become lasting friends. All members are invited to join in the fun and the reward of the Garage and Plant Sale's unique ministry.

An organizational meeting will be announced in late spring. Volunteers, experienced, less-experienced, and new, will come together to learn and recall the event's details. From that gathering will emerge the joy and anticipation that can be expected to bloom into a Sale of "summer garden" success proportion.

To God be the Glory,

Deborah Dreher
Lead Coordinator

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE WE'RE APART

When we (David and Geneva Weisser) moved to Hastings a little over 25 years ago, we came from a very happy, meaningful membership in a Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. We had many different involvements with other members of that congregation. Further, we were blessed with some TREMENDOUS pastoral leadership during our stay. So, we wanted to be careful about choosing our next church home. We attended both Our Saviour's and St. Philips a number of times (as well as a couple other churches once or twice), most frequently Our Saviour's. But, it never felt 'right'. In spite of David's involvement with youth leadership development in Hastings and the Associate Pastor of Our Saviour's, and knowing some other members there, we resisted calling it 'home'.



Then, one Sunday, we attended a worship service at SPLC. Ed Frederick was preaching and we liked his sermon and delivery. What really sealed the deal, however, was when Bert Goderstad 'took us in hand' and gave us a tour of the building, and a short history of the congregation. We were invited to their house and Margaret fixed one of her famous dinners, after which Bert gave a slide show on (who else?) Frank Lloyd Wright.

After getting involved in a couple projects at the church we decided to join.

Over the years (we can't remember exactly how many: 15? 18?) we have both been involved in many ways in our church home. David was one of the first men to help make lefse, Geneva was instrumental in building the plant sale, we've done lecturing, choir, counting offering, Council President, spaghetti supper (including donations), bake sale, constitution committee, nominating committee and more.

None of that speaks to the real meaning of St. Philip's and our church family, however. David often talks about growing up in a very rigid, law-oriented church. He says "Growing up I learned the law of God, now I'm learning the love of God." The spiritual fulfillment from regular worship, the love we get from our friends (family) at St. Philip's, hearing God's challenge to me to listen, love and grow helps me find the direction

God wants for me. Talking with others and praying, I clarify what that means for me (very Lutheran language). The call to personal action, rooted in a belief in God's calling, especially in social justice issues, reminds me of many of the prophets, and Christ's commands.

Living during COVID is hard. Maintaining a strong relationship with my church family during COVID is hard. But God's church will survive. We will again come together and worship, sing, hug, laugh, cry, argue; all those things families do. I can't wait. We're excited to see where God leads us next.

My time at St. Philip's has been relatively short compared to many other members. I, officially, became a member of St. Philip's in December 2015. I was, however, attending unofficially for many years prior to that. The strong commitment to community outreach that I saw present in the church played a major role in my decision to eventually join. Some of my involvement to further that mission includes years of participation in the annual garage sale, the summer LeDuc pie social, November Bake sale, Samaritan's Purse Christmas project. Most recently, I've volunteered at the blood drive and worked in the VBS program.



My life as a resident of Hastings carries a longer tenure. I am what some call a "local". I moved here at the ripe, old age of 7. After high school, I attended Gustavus Adolphus College and began working with the Hastings Community Education Department shortly thereafter. I furthered my duties within the department by including water exercise through the Senior Citizen's Center. In 2014, I retired from School District 200 where I was a Chapter 1 aide at Kennedy Elementary for 19 years.

I have one daughter, Kristen, who lives and works in town. That, fortunately, allows much time for walks and bike rides together. We are avid Minnesota Wild fans.

As many people know, I have a passion for travel and I am looking forward to resuming that when a global pandemic isn't stifling our lives.

Sue Karnick

Hello Church Family. This is our story! This is our song! My family joined St. Philip's in September of 1968. The building was not much, just a square brick building. But look at it now!! All of the changes to the building are quite amazing.



Growing up I couldn't catch a break, realizing there were a group of school teacher's and a principal attending the same church. Looking back on that, I have gained a close relationship with them over the years and for that I am very grateful. We do look at our church as a family and are very grateful for people that we have met along the way.

Work took me to a lot of different places in the state. Before moving to Hastings, I was employed by a farmer near Walnut Grove, Minnesota. Yes, this is the home of Little House on the Prairie. This is where I met Brenda. We dated and finally made the move to Hastings in 1985. We married in April of 1985 and Brenda had asked me if I knew of a church to attend. I replied of course, the church I was a member of growing up. We both are employed at Bailey Nursery for a combination of 68 years - getting closer for the both of us to think of retiring - WOW!

On March 12, 1994 we were blessed with an addition to our family, Cody "Twinkle Toes" Arndtson. Cody is now grown and is an instructor for ballroom dancing in Boynton Beach, Florida. He has had many challenges since moving there, especially since Covid, but has worked through them. We couldn't be more proud.

It just makes you wonder where the time goes. Cody is now 26 and Brenda and I have been married for 35 years and members of St. Philip's for 30 years.

Since Covid our church also has gone through many changes, along with all of us. Who thought we would be Zooming for meetings and watching our Sunday church services online! But Covid has brought us to this point and hopefully when this is all said and done, we can all say that we have learned something from this pandemic. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and that soon we will be back to some kind of normalcy.

Bruce and Brenda Arndtson

Hi! My name is Marita Legreid. You might not know that my difficult last name is actually Norwegian. My grandparents emigrated from Norway in the early 20th century. My first name is a different story and needs a bit of an unbelievable explanation.



I grew up in Winona, Minnesota where I graduated from High School and College.

I moved to Hastings when I got a position teaching third graders at Cooper School. I have spent 35 years in the Hastings School District teaching third, second, and fourth graders. I loved teaching especially because of the children. I enjoyed watching them grow in knowledge as each year moved on. I treated the children with respect and was fortunate to receive that respect in return.

In about 2005 I joined St. Philip's and with some encouragement I got involved in a few aspects of the church and its Bible groups, worship coordinating, garage sale, WELCA, and other "worker bee" activities in the church.

I've met some wonderful church people and have enjoyed working with them and getting to know them.

It's been a difficult year. I miss attending church, being with friends and having get-togethers for lunch.

I do spend a lot of my time at home. (My closets have never been this clean!). I do quite a bit of reading and have become quite a savvy Internet shopper. I've watched many movies, mostly vintage ones for a good laugh. I keep in touch with my friends and family often.

I am looking forward to the time when our lives return to "normal" so that we can worship together, shake hands, and give each other a hug. God willing.





Camp News!

We are working with Green Lake Lutheran Ministries to figure out the best way to send our kids to camp this summer in a safe and fun way. Here are some of the safety measures that GLLM will be implementing under the guidance of the state and the American Camp Association:

- Lots of cleaning and disinfecting, of course
- Using a "pod structure," where each cabin will be a different "pod" and will only interact with other "pods" from a safe distance away
- Masks will be worn unless they are in their cabin with their "pod" or outside and a safe distance away from other people

As it stands today, church staff will not be able to visit the kids at camp, as we have not been able to figure out a reliable, safe way to do so. However, GLLM is very open to any ideas on how we can visit safely!

Please let Sarah Bennett at sarahb@splchastings.org know if you would like to send your kids to camp this year, or even if you are on the fence. You are also always welcome to contact her with any and all questions you may have!

We are planning on having a virtual Camp Sunday on February 14. Details to come!

8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CO-TEACHER



WANTED! We are looking for someone to co-teach 8th grade confirmation for the rest of the school year. Even if you only have time to sub, that would be great! We meet virtually on Wednesdays at 6:45 pm. Please let Sarah

Bennett know at email: sarahb@splchastings.org or (651) 829-9182 if you are interested!



Just like we did during Advent, we will be giving out activity bags for families to do together during Lent! These will involve Bible stories, discussion questions, coloring pages, and crafts. Let Sarah Bennett know if you are interested in getting a Lent activity bag for your family!



Although confirmation is not meeting in person right now, we still believe it is very important to continue our mentor program for Lent this year. Mentors and mentees can meet virtually via Zoom, Google Meet, or even just talk on the phone! This sort of relationship-building is extremely valuable for faith formation so we would love for you to volunteer as a mentor this year! A virtual mentor orientation meeting will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 17 at 6:00 pm. You will be contacted with the details. If you are not able to attend printed copies of what was discussed will be available.

Please contact Sarah Bennett, Director of Children, Youth and Family at sarahb@splchastings.org or call her at (651) 829-9182 if you are interested in being a confirmation mentor!



COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Thanks to a generous donation, St. Philip's is in the process of building a columbarium on the east side of the church property. A columbarium is a structure with niches (compartments) to hold the ashes of a loved one. The team has made much progress during the past year. Application packets have been created, approval from church and city councils have been received, and we have signed a contract with Eickhof to build the structure. Presales started on December 6. During that month seven niches were leased. We are currently working with a landscape designer and have requested bids for the concrete work. Our goal is to have the columbarium installed sometime this spring or early summer.

A table has been set up in the narthex with a rendering of the columbarium the team has selected, as well as a sample niche and sell sheets for the taking. The sell sheet is also included in this newsletter as an insert. For those who are interested in leasing a niche, an application folder is available on the table or welcome center. Let us know if you prefer to have the application U.S. mailed to you. Please return applications, along with payment, to the church office during business hours or via U.S. Mail. For more information, feel free to call Gary McDougall at 651-216-7213 or Judy Hansen at 612-600-1209.

A 2020 St. Philip's "Covid-19 Christmas"

St. Philip's opened for in-person worship on December 24, following a period of suspending worship. Forty-two worshippers came to the 3:30 pm indoor service. A virtual service was prepared with a choir offering of special music for all congregation participants.

The Christmas altar as seen on Christmas Eve, had the added Christmas banner as given by Vonnie Olson in memory of Jim Olson in 2019. A floral arrangement along with flanking poinsettias (not seen) replaced the traditional array of poinsettias usually adorning the altar at Christmas.



At 5 pm on Christmas Eve, members were invited to St. Philip's parking lot near the fire pit where Pastor Geier delivered a Christmas message from the bed of his pick-up truck. The amplified message was heard by a good number of worshippers who remained in their cars or sat on chairs in the rather chilly night. Pastor Geier's effort to express the Christmas story in this creative way had a special meaning for all who attended.

**Worship Leaders
February 2020**

	Sunday February 7	Sunday February 14	Ash Wednesday February 17	Sunday February 21	Wednesday Lenten Service Feb 24	Sunday February 28
	9:30: AM	9:30: AM	7:00: PM	9:30: AM	7:00: PM	9:30: AM
Worship Coordinator	Pam Hoffman & Darla Kimmes	Mary Rock & Connie Ball	Lance & Lois Tweidt	Katy Lindberg & Michelle Carlson	Katy Lindberg	Bob & Susan Cruse
Greeter/ Attendance Recorder	Pam Hoffman & Darla Kimmes	Mary Rock & Connie Ball	Lance & Lois Tweidt	Katy Lindberg & Michelle Carlson	Katy Lindberg	Bob & Susan Cruse
Welcome Center						
Usher	Lance Tweidt	Glenda Schnirring		Lori Best		Deborah Dreher
Lector	Lori Best	Bob & Susan Cruse		Deborah Dreher		Glenda Schnirring
Communion Bread	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier		Pastor Geier

Please check in with the worship coordinators on the Sunday you have a duty. They will answer any questions and let you know if there are any special circumstances that day.

If you are unable to fulfill your assigned spot, please contact others on the schedule and attempt to find your own substitute.

Please let Lista in the church office know of any changes to this schedule (651-437-6541)

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor

pastorgeier@splchastings.org

Noreen Swanson, Organist

swansonhastings@centurylink.net

Ellen Diischer, Music Director

ellend@splchastings.org

Nathan Griner

nathang@splchastings.org

**Sarah Bennett, Director of Children,
Youth and Family Ministries**

sarahb@splchastings.org

Christine Rydel, Business Manager

christiner@splchastings.org

John Diischer, Sound Board Technician

johnd@splchastings.org

Becky Kaphing, Preschool Co-Director

preschool@splchastings.org

Lorelei Rein, Preschool Co-Director

preschool@splchastings.org

Lista Klocow, Office Manager

listak@splchastings.org

**ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND
PRESCHOOL**

1401 West 15th Street

Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541

www.splchastings.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service:

Online Worship Posted on Facebook and

YouTube on Sundays at 8:30 am

“St. Philip’s Lutheran Church Hastings MN”

In-Person Worship Sundays at 9:30 am

Social Hour via Zoom at 9:30 am

Communion via Zoom at 11:00 am

Sunday School Online Sundays at 9:30 am

Confirmation Online Wednesday February 3 and 10

at 6:45 pm. No confirmation through Lent.

Wednesday Lenten Worship Service:

Online Worship Posted on Facebook and

YouTube on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

“St. Philip’s Lutheran Church Hastings MN”

In-Person Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm

affix label here

TIME-DATED MATERIAL

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