

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

April 2021

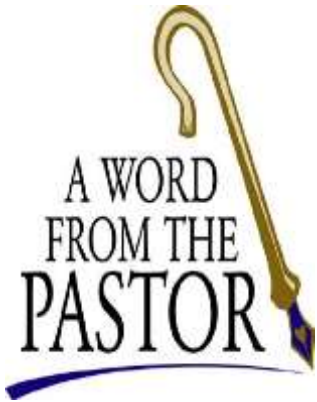


HE HAS RISEN

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Maundy Thursday, April 1 | 7:00 pm In-Person / First Communion and Online Worship Service |
| Good Friday, April 2 | 7:00 pm In-Person and Online Worship Service |
| Easter Sunday, April 4 | 8:30 am Online Worship Service
9:30 am In-Person Worship Service
9:00 and 10:30 am Easter Egg hunt |
| Wednesday, April 7 | 6:45 pm In-Person Confirmation Class Resumes |
| Sunday, April 11 | 10:30 am In-Person Sunday School Begins
6:30 pm Mental Illness and Jesus' Teachings Forum Begins |

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south^u to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.

Acts 8:26-27



Six times. Six times! In our lesson for April 25, the Bible refers to this Ethiopian court official as a "eunuch" six times. Why does the Bible make such a point to refer to him as a eunuch? Even though he was very wealthy, eunuchs were forbidden by the Law or Moses to become full Jews. They could come

near the Temple, but they couldn't go through the gates. (If you don't believe me look up Deuteronomy 23:1) For over 1,400 years this had been not only a tradition but the law of God.

Could you imagine how well that would go over here at St. Philip's if we would tell people with certain medical conditions that they were welcome here, but they couldn't come into the church building. Or maybe we would allow them in the narthex, but certainly not the sanctuary. Doesn't that sound ridiculous? Can we imagine closing our doors to someone who is searching to know God's love? Yet unfortunately, the Christian church has not always been the warm and embracing community we would like to think it is. We haven't had laws or policies so much as engaged in subtle behaviors to make some people feel unwelcome.

This court official had traveled for many miles to learn about God, but the closest he could get to church was the door. Maybe that's why he bought a scroll, but it wasn't doing him much good because he didn't understand it.

Equally strange is *where* this story occurs. The angel instructs Philip to go to the middle of nowhere in essence. Remember, roads back then could be dangerous and lonely places. But without any questions, Philip heads out and miraculously finds

there a distinguished chariot. Urged by God, Philip runs alongside the chariot and asks a bold question: "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Can you imagine the scene? A lone stranger jogging by your chariot breathlessly asking you such an audacious question. How would the Ethiopian in the comfort of his chauffeured chariot react to this bold even rude question? And yet the Ethiopian responds, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" People of power, and education are not accustomed to asking for help and even less accustomed to taking advice from some random stranger in the middle of nowhere.

Philip could have viewed the Ethiopian eunuch as a freakish foreigner who was wasting his time. But Philip didn't look at people like that. Philip also realized that Jesus' power and love were more powerful than ancient holiness codes. The grace of God manifested in Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection destroyed every distinction that humanity could envision to separate God from the people God loves.

And the Lord who loves all people wants to teach us to view all people as treasures and opportunities to share our faith. God will bring about results when we talk about the peace Jesus has brought to our lives. God works in mysterious ways. But there will be opportunities this week. It might be someone, like the eunuch, not feeling very special, an individual, giving you the chance to tell them how valuable and dearly loved they are by God. You can tell them what Christ did to make them a treasured person. How will God use you this week?

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier



Philip and the Ethiopian

Preschool Chatter

Welcome to spring! It has been a busy month of March for our preschool friends. The weather took a nice turn early which was a plus in Minnesota! The children were busy learning about Llama Llama stories, pizza, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, and Easter before spring break. Some activities to highlight include PJ day, making their own pizzas, going on a letter hunt, Palm parade, and Easter egg hunt just to name a few! Miss Sarah also included us in the coloring activity to help decorate the narthex for Easter. The children were so excited to see their projects hanging up! As we move forward into April teachers are preparing for parent conferences.

For the months of January and February the preschool was given Covid relief money from the state. Our staff worked very hard to be sure this money was spent on ways to improve the health and safety for our students. One item we would like to mention is the divider wall in the fellowship hall. We as a preschool have been using that to keep our classes from sharing space but allow both classes to have a place for large motor time. If you have been in by that wall in the last five plus years you may know it does not slide well on the track and is falling off in many places. The preschool decided to not only have the wall repaired but also to get the track serviced to prevent further breakage. To do this cost over \$4,000 but we felt it will be very helpful to us in keeping our classes safely separated. We also feel this will be a great benefit to the church as a whole when we get back to having more in-person events.

Registration is in full swing! If you have a friend or neighbor looking for a preschool for next fall, please pass along our information! We can be found on facebook@stphilipspreschoolhastings or on the church website www.splchastings.org/learning/faithformation.preschool

Blessings to you all,
Becky and Lorelei, Preschool Co-Directors

GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE

	Actual 02/21 YTD	Budget 02/21 YTD	Actual 02/20 YTD
General and Misc. Funds YTD			
Income	\$114,212	\$110,789	\$114,919
Expenses	\$116,533	\$101,832	\$111,442
Over (short)	(\$2,320)	\$8,956	\$3,477
Capital Fund	\$27,937	\$28,333	\$35,919

Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers for my nephew Roman Ranollo. His surgery was successful. He is still in recovery stages at least for a year of heart check-ups. But so far everything looks good. Thank you so much.

Emily Preston

Thank you to our dear St. Philip's family from Norman and Lenora for all the prayers and healing thoughts, cards and phone calls after Norm's fall and hospital and rehab stays. He continues to heal his fracture neck, albeit slow. Getting great care at our assisted living apartment in Apple Valley. We look forward to getting back to worship and seeing you all at St. Philip's.

Norman and Lenora Holtorf

John and Ellen Diischer wish to express their thanks for all of the prayers, cards, flowers, food and notes of support that they have received since Ellen's surgery. The kindness and care shown by the family of St. Philip's has been very much appreciated. Ellen is recovering and looking forward to the next stage on the road back to health.

John and Ellen Diischer

- AMONG OUR OWN -

Congratulations to...

Ken and Cheryl Albold on their 53rd wedding anniversary on April 6.

Neil and Jan Misegades on their 53rd wedding anniversary on April 6.

Bob and Ruth Zietlow on their 51st wedding anniversary on April 11.

Dick and Solveig Dirks on their 64th wedding anniversary on April 13.

Darin and Stacey Krogstad on their 20th wedding anniversary on April 21.

Tom and Cheryl Bullington on their 30th wedding anniversary on April 27.

Loren and Valerie Mollet on their 68th wedding anniversary on April 30.



SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS



April 4	Luke 24:1-12 Resurrection
April 11	Luke 24:13-35 Emmaus Road
April 18	Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60 Stephen's Witness
April 25	Acts 8:26-39 Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized

EASTER EGG HUNT

Yes, we are having an Easter egg hunt this year!

We are planning on having families sign up for specific time slots to make it easier to socially distance while hunting eggs. The time slots will be 9:00 am (before worship) and 10:30 am (after worship). Sign up using the sheet on the welcome center or email Sarah your preference at sarahb@splchastings.org.

We are also currently accepting candy donations for this fun event! We look forward to celebrating with you on Easter morning!



THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, April 5 for Easter holiday. If you need pastoral care, please call Pastor Geier at 563-357-2795.



SIGN UP FOR IN-PERSON EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

April 4 at 9:30 am



Easter Worship Service will be held in-person at St. Philip's Lutheran Church on April 4 at 9:30 am. Online worship will also be available on YouTube and Facebook.

Due to limited seating in the sanctuary according to CDC guidelines, please sign up on the sheet provided on the table in the narthex with name and number in party or call the church office to inform us if you will be attending the in-person worship service on Easter Sunday. We want to safely accommodate the worship needs of all, as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

The Worship and Music Ministry team.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

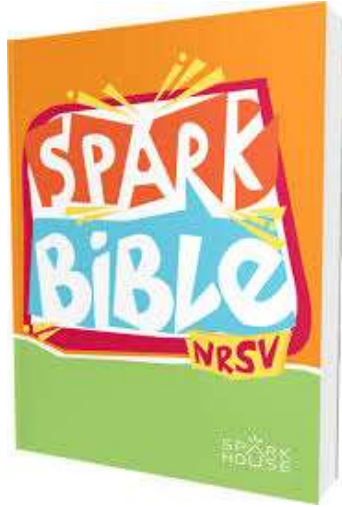
Sunday, March 28	Palm Sunday Online at 8:30 am In-Person at 9:30 am
Thursday, April 1	Maundy Thursday with First Communion Online and In-Person at 7:00 pm
Friday, April 2	Good Friday Online and In-Person at 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 4	Easter Online at 8:30 am In-Person at 9:30 am (Please sign-up if you are attending in-person)



OPENING THE BIBLE CLASS

For Third (and some Fourth Graders) and their Parents on April 10!

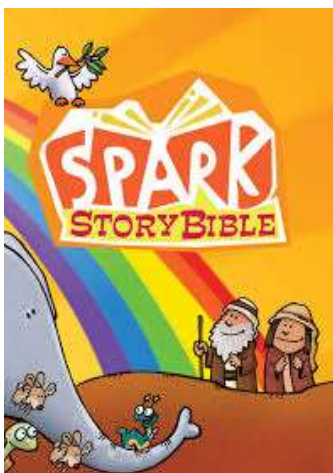
On Saturday, April 10 at 9:00 am, third graders and their parents are invited to participate in a morning of fun that will introduce the Bible and help them to learn why and how to read Scripture. Children who are older and have not yet received a Bible are welcome to attend with their parents as well. Masks and safe distancing between households will continue to be practiced. During our time together, we will also go over our confirmation program and how St. Philip's Lutheran Church seeks to nurture our children and their parents on their faith journeys. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office so that we can make sure to prepare the appropriate space.



On Sunday, April 11 the children will be awarded Bibles during worship. If families are not comfortable coming to in-person worship at this time, we will find a way to get their Bibles to them.

ALSO...

BIBLES FOR 3-YEAR-OLDS!



Any families with 3-year-old (or older children who have not yet received their Bible) are welcome to come and receive their Spark Story Bible on April 11 as well. Please contact the church office and we will make sure to have a Bible ready for you to give them.

IN-PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starting April 11 and ending on May 2, we will have in-person Sunday school!

Each Sunday school will have a different theme and energetic activities for all ages. Parents are welcome to participate as well! In-person Sunday School will be at 10:30 am.

April 11- Church scavenger hunt

Learn about all the cool reminders of God we have in our church building, and remember that WE are the church!

April 18- Pajama day

Learn about the creation story and why resting is so important!

April 25 - Acts of Random Kindness day

Learn about the love languages and how we can be kind to each other every day!

May 2- Show and Tell day

Kids and families are encouraged to bring something from home (or even a picture!) of something they have that reminds them about God's love. You can also just bring anything you think we'd like to see so we can get to know you more!



Due to the uncertainty of this summer, most families are understandably unsure whether they want to send their children to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries this year. After talking it over with the faith formation team and the folks at GLLM, we are not going to "officially" block a specific week for St. Philip's kids to go to camp.

That said, if you do decide to sign up for camp and want to go with other St. Philip's kids, we encourage you to sign up for week 2, June 27 - July 2. We will still help with transportation and cost! Remember that GLLM has open enrollment all summer, so you can sign up any time.



Resumes April 7!

After some wonderful conversations with their adult mentors, our confirmation classes will be meeting **IN PERSON** starting the Wednesday after Easter at 6:45 at the church. We will be wearing masks and maintaining a safe distance of at least 6 feet between each other, but we will get to be with each other! Be sure to bring your Bibles, notebooks and a pen or pencil. We'll see you on April 7 (if not before!)

CAMP AMNICON

Our high schoolers will go to the Flambeau River Ramble with Camp Amnicon this

summer on July 25-30! This is an all-outdoor program with lots of

canoeing and sleeping in hammocks. We will provide transportation and assist with any fees, so rest assured that cost will not be an issue for anyone! Email Sarah Bennett, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries at sarahb@splchastings.org if you're interested in registering!



As for fundraising, keep your eyes peeled for any flamingo infestations popping up in people's yards soon!

Register now for fall preschool!



Sessions offered 9am-noon

- 👉 Tuesday / Thursday
- 👉 Monday / Wednesday / Friday
- 👉 Monday through Friday

Call Becky or Lorelei

(651) 437-6541

preschool@splchastings.org

www.splchastings.org

1401 W 15th St - Hastings, MN

- 👉 Open to All Preschoolers 3-5 Years Old
- 👉 Non-denominational Christian Emphasis
- 👉 Licensed Program
- 👉 Call today to schedule a tour!

HELLO ST. PHILIP'S!

My name is Lisa Bergert and a member of this congregation. Currently I am in my first year at Luther Seminary working towards a MA in Diaconal Ministry in response to God's call for me to work in His church. As part of my Contextual learning (meaning, my practical studies) I will be volunteering at St. Philip's this semester to learn and grow in Christian Public Leadership. Pastor Geier has graciously agreed to mentor me in this effort to guide me on the path God has laid in front of me.



After Easter, I will be leading a forum on Mental Illness and Jesus' teachings regarding this ailment that affects so many in this community. Look for an announcement in the newsletter!

I look forward to this experience and am excited to learn and grow while I walk this path with God and you.

AHOY!

The WELCA group at St. Philip's is planning an outing on the St. Croix River near Stillwater for Thursday, July 8, 2021. A sandwich lunch and a 2-hour cruise is included in the cost of approximately \$30.00.



More information will be coming in the May newsletter.



LOST AND FOUND

There are several coats that have been left behind at St. Philip's this past year. Take a look and see if you are the owner of any of them. They can be found on the coat rack outside the church office. Any items not claimed will be donated.



MENTAL ILLNESS AND JESUS' TEACHINGS

Join me, starting the next four Sundays after Easter, in a forum setting to talk about the affects of mental illness on the people who are afflicted, Jesus' purpose and healing of these individuals, and his example to include and commune in fellowship together as children of God. We will look at current statistics to better understand the pervasiveness of mental illness in the United States and the increase of prevalence during the pandemic. With the use of New Testament scripture, we will study how Jesus shows us how to live with mental illness, whether personally afflicted or in fellowship with those who are.

When: 6:30-7:15 pm

Where: via Zoom

Forum Dates and Focus:

- April 11 My Story: Living with Depression, What Kept Me from Seeking Help, My Recovery
- April 18 Jesus Proclaims Release to the Captives: His Fulfillment of Scripture
- April 25 Lessons on Hospitality and Friendship: Examples of Welcoming All
- May 2 One in Christ: Community and Inclusion

Questions? or to obtain the Zoom link contact Lisa Bergert at Imbergert@gmail.com.

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE WE'RE APART

Hello! The Zabel family joined St. Philip's in 2005 when we moved from Old Cottage Grove to Hastings.



Kurt and I have been teachers at Hastings High School since 1994 (Laura – Math) and 1995 (Kurt – Chemistry). We decided to change our church home from Kurt's childhood ELCA congregation in Maplewood where we were married and our children were baptized, to St. Philip's when we finally found a house in Hastings. We really wanted our daughters Jolena (now 26) and Aleaha (now 23) to be able to go to church with the kids they went to school with and be part of an active church family. When we made the move, many of our school colleagues reached out and invited us to visit their churches in Hastings. We visited several in town, the last one being St. Philip's. The teachers who had invited us (Bob Cruse, Al Todnem, Tom Dahlberg to name just a few) welcomed us wholeheartedly and introduced us to so many people who would soon become our church family. For everyone who has done "church shopping" you know how intimidating and stressful the process can be. All of that ended when we walked through the doors at SPLC. I will never forget that first service. Pastor Ed was giving his warm welcome to the congregation, and Aleaha turned to me and said, "This is it; this is our church." She was 8 years old. The wisdom of youth, right? We all agreed that SPLC was going to be home.

We had been very involved in our previous church, and initially thought we would take a bit of a break when joining our new church, but that didn't last long! We jumped into helping coordinate the Wednesday night service and FOCUS Band which has evolved into the second service we have today. Kurt continues to play guitar in the praise band and for other church services and events. I stepped back from singing a few years ago after some issues with my vocal cords but still enthusiastically support the band from the congregation. Over the years we have volunteered at many spaghetti dinners, Easter breakfasts, Lenten

soup suppers, VBS weeks, youth group events, leaf raking (We are proud charter members of T.A.R.P – "Totally Awesome Raking Professionals"), and pretty much anything else that the kids were doing.

Both of our girls were confirmed at SPLC and took part in many transformational trips and activities. Jolena did a mission trip to South Dakota with Kurt and a Mission Mexico trip. Aleaha was able to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans along with several canoe trips. Both attended confirmation retreats and summer camps at Green Lake and Shores of St. Andrew. We did family camp several summers as well. What amazing memories and time to deepen our faith. The girls also participated in the church musicals and played their French horns at many Easter and special music services over the years. We appreciated all the opportunities to share their love of music! Children's Choir with Ellen was a big part of their weekly church life. Jolena went on to accompany the children's choir for a year as well.

Jolena graduated from HHS in 2012 and attended Macalester College in St. Paul. She majored in Political Science, English, and International Studies. She had many amazing experiences with internships at the United Nations Population Fund in Washington DC, US State Department, UM School of Law, and a semester studying abroad at Kings College in London. She met her husband David freshman year in choir at Mac! After graduation they moved to Washington DC for two years where Jolena worked for a non-profit, Kakenya's Dream (a school for girls in Kenya to escape child marriage and get an education) and David worked for the Defense Department. They were married in Georgetown in June 2018 and they moved to Virginia in the fall of 2018 when Jolena started Law School at the University of Virginia. David has been working as a software engineer for Decipher. After law school, Jolena will clerk for the Minnesota Supreme Court for a year and then their family will move to London where she will start at Latham and Watkins.

Aleaha graduated from HHS in 2015 and attended St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona. She majored in Elementary Education with Middle School Math and Science. (She had to keep both parents happy!) She played club volleyball, sang in the choir, was an RA for two years, and did a short-term study abroad as well. Aleaha has always wanted to be a teacher and work with kids, so she pursued that passion working at the Hastings YMCA and Camp Spring Lake as a counselor and lead staff. By her side since 10th grade is her husband Alex. High school sweethearts, they went to college together at SMU and after graduation bought a house in town on 6th

street and started their teaching careers. Aleaha teaches 2nd grade at McAuliffe and coaches 9th grade volleyball. Alex is a social studies teacher at HMS and is the boys varsity tennis head coach and assistant varsity head coach for boys basketball. We celebrated their wedding at SPLC with Pastor Geier and our church family in December 2019, right before the pandemic began. We are so blessed that we were able to have that wonderful day! Aleaha and Alex have continued their faith life with us here at St. Philip's.

Over the years, we have spent a lot of time traveling, taking road trips every summer with the girls. We have been to almost every state with them (We are missing Alaska and Hawaii). We would pack up the tent, or later jump in to the white conversion van, and hit the road. Exploring National Parks, hiking, trying new food, and touring historic sites. In their high school years, many of the trips involved school activities-band, choir, marching band, show choir, volleyball, foreign language, and Italy/Greece. Kurt and I loved chaperoning these trips and getting to be a part of those incredible experiences with the girls. Lots of early mornings, late nights, buses, walking tacos, and teenagers. And we wouldn't change a thing! (Well, maybe more sleep would have been nice.)

Since we are empty nesters now, we are looking forward to some post-Covid travel. We had scheduled several trips for 2020 that have all been delayed, but we will get back on the road/in a plane as soon as it is safe again. In the meantime, we have moved into the most fun phase of life yet, Grandparenting! Jolena and David had a son Ezra Dale on October 8, 2020. He spent a week in the NICU, but since then has been healthy and happy! He was over 10 pounds at birth and continues to grow like crazy! (We are all building up some serious arm strength!) One of the silver linings of Covid, was that Jolena's last year at law school has been distance learning, so they were able to move back to St. Paul from Charlottesville, VA this past August, so we have been able to see them all the time, otherwise we would have been long distance grandparents this year.

To add to our Grandparent bliss, Aleaha and Alex are expecting their first baby in May! We are so excited to meet Baby Zuzek soon!!! Being a grandparent is such a blessing!

We are looking forward to life after Covid and being together again! Living and teaching (distance, hybrid, and in person) in a pandemic has been a huge challenge, and we have relied on our Hastings and Philippian community for support and are so grateful to be healthy and safe.

Hello – we are Marc, Nancy, Brody and Devin Hampl.



We have been members of St. Philip's for about 17 years. We originally moved to Hastings in 1997 because it was in the middle of our commutes at the time. It was

actually a return to Hastings for Marc. He had lived in Hastings until he was 5 and had been a member of St. Philip's with his family in the 70's. We did take a while to find our church home after moving here, but once Brody was born we decided St. Philip's was the place to be.

St. Philip's has given us many opportunities throughout the years to learn, grow and be involved. Some of our favorites have been VBS, children's choir and musicals, church camp, spaghetti dinners and family fun nights. Now that the kids are older we have been able to usher as a family and Brody has been able to help with the Sound Board. We look forward to when we can return to those activities. For now, we will continue Sunday Church services from the comfort of our couch.

Life during Covid has given us the opportunity as a family to slow down a bit. We are enjoying more family time together for simple things like going on walks, playing games, watching movies, eating meals together. This winter we have had time to downhill ski together. We look forward to when our schedules are full again with friends and family, sports, music, church activities and travel. For the time being we will try to continue to appreciate our quieter pace and more time together as a family.

Tom and Kim Hoffbeck moved to Hastings in 2004 from St. Paul Park

where they were members of All Saints Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove.

They have 2 children, Amelia and Justin. They liked St. Philip's for the wonderful programming for children



and how welcoming everyone was. Kim has taught Sunday School, been a Confirmation Mentor and served as Secretary of the Church Council.

Tom has worked at 3M for the last 14 years, currently he is a Quality Engineer Specialist within the Separation and Purification Sciences Division. He works with filters that are used in the drug manufacturing industry. Kim works at Endeavor Air as a Crew Planner, creating crewmember schedules for pilots and flight attendants at the regional airline, owned by Delta Airlines.

They also own and operate Hoffbeck Photography, a photography studio in Hastings. They enjoy photographing the St. Philip's Confirmation Classes each year and created the 2011-2012 SPLC Church Directory.

Amelia is in her final year of college and will graduate from Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, IL) in May with a BS in Mathematics with a Physics minor. She will be starting at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health this Fall in a Biostatistics Masters program. She also plans to apply to Medical School. She is currently working part-time as a Pharmacy Tech for CVS and an Emergency Room Tech for Mayo Clinic.

Justin currently works as a Dietary Aide for the Allina Health Regina Care Center. He loves fishing year round. The Amnicon River Canoe Trip was the highlight of their SPLC experience for both Amelia and Justin and that wonderful trip has led to more camping and canoeing adventures for the entire family!

The Hoffbeck family also has 2 amazing dogs, Trey and Claude. They were adopted from Animal Ark in Hastings in 2017 and 2018.

The Worthington family (Amber, Randy, Chase, Taylor and Austin) have been doing well this past year. We have been weathering the COVID storm with three children - Chase (8), Taylor (6), and Austin (4).

Randy has been busy working at Eischen Cabinet



Company and I have been busy running my family's business, Schlomka's Vac Truck Service in Inver Grove Heights. We both took turns working from home over the last year and have been blessed with jobs/employers who are extremely forgiving due to e-learning. Our family has been busy tending to our small chicken flock, taking care of two new kittens, as well as small home projects. We are itching to be outdoors as the weather warms up and while we do not have travel plans this year, we will be taking many small day trips and adventures together on the weekends. Blessings!

LOOKING AT ST. PHILIP'S STEWARDSHIP RESPONSES 20 YEARS AGO

St. Philip's Stewardship Ministry had as an agenda for its March meeting a looking-back at a Stewardship Survey conducted at a worship service on September 16, 2001, which was five days after 9/11. Two hundred adults and 51 youth completed the survey. Two questions from the survey were as follows, with a scoring scale of 5 (strongly agree) to 1 (strongly disagree).

1. "Everything I am and have comes from God and belongs to God."
76% gave this a "5", and 18% a "4", which means 94% scored very high on this.
2. "I feel good about the percent of my income I give to my congregation and other causes or efforts."
24% gave this a "5", and 27% a "4", resulting in 51% satisfied with themselves on this matter.

The survey was interesting to review and ponder as to where we believe people would be on some of the questions in our present time.

The Stewardship team wishes to again express its thanks for the steady flow of financial giving that enables the ministries of St. Philip's to be carried out. God's presence and grace is holding us together.



SINCE YOU ASKED...

How come Pastor Geier is "friends" with some people on Facebook and not others?

This one is easy. I have long made it a practice not to "request" friends but to accept invitations from adults I know or serve. This is in part because I post things very infrequently and have a pretty mundane life. However, I do enjoy seeing the posts and updates of others and will "like" or sometimes even comment on them. I also do my best to recognize birthdays.

If you would like to "friend" me, send an invite and I will respond. An exception is that thus far I have not accepted invitations from children or teens. This is because I prefer for parents to be involved in any communication or correspondence I have with their daughters and sons.

Speaking of Facebook, I would encourage all of you who have an account to like and subscribe to one or both our congregation's Facebook pages. There is our St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Hastings, MN page and our St. Philip's Faith Formation page. I have been doing a short 1-2 minute daily devotion (with the exception of Fridays and Sundays) at 10:00 am. Right now, I am working through the book of Acts.

THANKS FOR ASKING!

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

St. Philip's plans to build 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. A team was formed more than a year ago and since then much progress has been made. We have vendors in place for the columbarium, patio, landscaping, benches, and concrete work. Presales started on December 6 for the 80-unit columbarium that was selected. Our goal is to have the columbarium installed sometime this spring or early summer. A dedication will take place when all the work has been completed, probably sometime in September.

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

FELLOWSHIP ROOM FOLDING WALLS GET NEEDED REPAIR

Enormous thanks go to Preschool directors, Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein. With funds received from Covid-19 public health support for child care, state of Minnesota, costs were covered for expenses which made St. Philip's Preschool a safe and healthy place for children and staff during its Covid school run.

The two classes of the Preschool had to be kept separate, making the use of the Fellowship Hall a large-motor play space. The folding walls had suffered neglect and did not operate well. Connecting latches needed repair, plus the walls were releasing from the track. The final repair was to clean and add new lubricant to the track for ease of moving the walls. While this may be more information than interested you, the whole repair is really a time for celebration for those who use the room in strategic ways.



The work was completed by service specialists out of W.L. Hall Co., Hopkins. The cost was \$4062, which was covered with the special Covid-19 funds. Thanks again to Becky and Lorelei who sought out the vendor and arranged all the details for this very needed repair. It has enhanced our building significantly.



Service Specialists Jake and Jason from W.L. Hall did the early repairs

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:

In Person Sundays at 10:30 am

Confirmation:

In Person at 6:45 pm

affix label here

TIME DATED MATERIAL

**Return Service Requested

St. Philip's Lutheran Church
1401 West 15th Street
Hastings, MN 55033

Hastings, MN 55033

Permit #148

PAID

U.S. Postage

Non-Profit Organization