# 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

September 2021

Confirmation Orientation Wednesday, September 1

**Preschool Begins September 7 and 8** 

WELCA Meeting / Circle Bible Study Begins Thursday, September 9

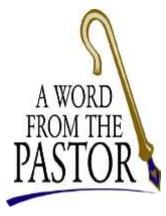
Rally Day Sunday, September 12

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, September 12

Sunday School Begins Sunday, September 19 at 10:45 am

**Confirmation Sunday September 26** 

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.



*James 2:14~17* Epistle lesson for September 5<sup>th</sup>

James is a book in the Bible that most Lutherans love to hate, or at the very least ignore with a sense of self-righteousness. We have a long tradition of doing so that we can even date our disdain back to

Martin Luther. Luther once wrote that the book of James was a "straw gospel" because of what Luther saw as James exaltation of works.

For the record, WE ARE SAVED BY GOD'S GRACE AND NOTHING ELSE! This is a non-negotiable point for us as Christians and especially as Lutheran Christians. We believe that even our faith is a gift from God that we can neither deserve nor earn. Having said that, I am equally certain that just because a certain passage may not inspire us or give us a warm feeling does not mean that it is not God's Word, and maybe the problem is not with the passage, but with us.

Traditionally, Lutherans like to bash the book of James because we rightly wish to lift up and focus upon God's grace. When James asks, "Can faith save you?" we want to shout at the top of our lungs, "YES IT CAN AND DOES, THANKS BE TO GOD!!!!"

But as we turn away from this passage, smugly confident that no one is ever going to accuse us of thinking we are saved by our works, we miss the larger point. James is saying that any faith that does not reveal itself in caring for your neighbor is not a living faith in Jesus Christ. James is saying that having faith in Jesus compels us to do things for the sake of others. Not even Martin Luther could argue with that. Sometimes we are so afraid of doing something good because it might seem to others that we are trying to "earn" our way to heaven that we end up doing nothing. Or we rationalize that since we are saved by God's grace, we don't <u>have</u> to do anything, and that is right, at least to a point. We don't have to do anything to be loved, forgiven and saved, but because we know the power of God's love and forgiveness, we are (or at the very least should be) compelled to share that good news in words and actions.

There are so many wonderful ministries within our family of faith at St. Philip's that "do" good works. I am thankful for the "works" of those who have served Third Thursday Phil-ups for so many years, our Sunday School teachers, our quilting ministry, the church council, the WELCA, altar guild, lectors, ushers, and many, many others. That is not to mention everyone who makes our garage sale possible! Most of all though, I am thankful for the faith that God has given each of you to do the works of service and love to which you are called in your daily lives.

### Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier

#### **GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE**

	Actual 07/21 YTD	Budget 07/21 YTD	Actual 07/20 YTD
General and Misc. Funds YTD			
Income	\$301,685	\$288,594	\$309,170
Expenses	\$324,059	\$329,957	\$316,457
Over (short)	(\$22,374)	(\$41,362)	(\$7,287)
Capital Fund	\$96,976	\$99,167	\$92,762

## Preschool Chatter

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! We are excited to be starting a new school year once again. Teachers have been busy preparing for our students to fill the halls with excitement on September 7 and 8.

Miss Lorelei and Miss Rachel will be teaching our older group while Miss Becky and Miss Kari will have the younger group. Our program runs from 9 am-noon Monday/Wednesday/Friday, Tuesday/Thursday or Monday through Friday. We do have some openings available if you know anyone still looking for preschool.

We want to wish all students and staff in our school district best of luck in the new school year!

Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein Preschool Co-Directors

#### - AMONG OUR OWN -

#### Congratulations to...

All those celebrating their wedding anniversary in September. Listed below are couples reaching a special anniversary...

Malcolm and Kelly Cox on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 1

Edward and Jonlee Brown on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 4

**Raul and Ruth Jackson** on their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 5

**Clint and Tanya Thurmes** on their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 9

**Dan and Chey Holm** on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 15

**Merle and Eloise Arndtson** on their 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 22

#### SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 5	Isaiah 35:4-7a James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 7:24-37
September 12	Isaiah 50:4-9a James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38
September 19	Jeremiah 11:18-20 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
September 26	Numbers 11;4-6, 10-16, 24-29 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

IONE ORR MEMORIAL SERVICE

**UPDATE** - Now that many of us have been immunized against COVID-19, it is time to celebrate the life of Ione Orr on September 3, 2021, just over 1 year after her passing on September 2, 2020. Please join us on September 3 for a visitation at St. Philip's from 10-11 am and followed by her memorial service at 11 am followed by interment of her ashes at Lakeside Cemetery followed by lunch and fellowship time. In view of the increased concern about the COVID-10 Delta variant, masks will be required at the church and the lunch has been moved outdoors to the EAST shelter at Spring Lake Park. For those many people who sent beautiful thoughts and cards at the time of her passing, please do not repeat that process, just sign the guest book and greet us!

Jennie, Dan, Lori and Joel Thomas



Rally Day is almost here! Come on down Sunday, September 12 for games, bounce houses, and crafts! We will also be putting together our Lutheran World Relief school supply donation bags on Rally Day, and we would love to have

people to help out assembling the bags! We would also greatly appreciate volunteers for the Rally Day stations, so let Sarah Bennett, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, know if you are interested.

Of course, after Rally Day, September 19 Sunday school is starting back up! If you'd like to register your child(ren) for Sunday school, registration forms can be found at the Welcome Center or on the St. Philip's website (<u>www.splchastings.org</u>) at the top of the Sunday school page. We are also looking for awesome Sunday school teachers to teach our awesome students, so if you would like to teach or be on our substitute list, please let Sarah Bennett know.

#### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS!**

If you are going back to school, whether you're a student or teacher, you are invited to bring your backpacks for our Blessing of the Backpacks on September 12 during worship at 9:30 am. We will pray for your upcoming school year and you'll get a backpack pin!



**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION** will be on Wednesday, September 1 at 6:45 pm. If you'd like to register your 7th, 8th, or 9th grade student(s) for confirmation, registration forms can be found at the Welcome Center or online at the St. Philip's website (www.splchastings.org) on the confirmation page. We're looking forward to seeing the students again!

#### **BAKESALE / SOUP LUNCHEON**

Hopefully the event can be held this year. The date of it is November 20. More details to follow in the October newsletter including lefse-making sessions. Questions! please contact Susan Cruse at 437-1767.

#### WELCA MEETING / CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

September means the start of many activities including the WELCA Meeting / Circle Bible Study. This event occurs the second Thursday of each month at church at 9:30 am. The first study will be on September 9. We will be following the Covid 19 restrictions the same as what St. Philip's follows for indoor gathering.

This year the September-November study will be concentrated on "The Gift of the Spirit." December will be an Advent devotional/study and January-April 2022 will be "The Kingdom of God."

Again these studies are found in the monthly *Gather* magazine. Three extra copies can be found in the WELCA mailbox by the church office.

**COLUMBARIUM UPDATE** 



Step outside to see our completed columbarium. Stop by the table set up in the narthex. Take a peek at the rendering of our columbarium, a sample niche, and sell sheets for the taking. Application folders are available for anyone interested in leasing a niche. Let us know if you prefer to have a packet US mailed to you. Please return application, along with payment, to the church office during business hours or via US Mail. For more information, call Gary McDougall at 651-216-7213 or Judy Hansen at 612-600-1209.

#### OFFICE CLOSED on

Monday, September 6 in honor of Labor Day. If you have any pastoral concerns,



please contact Pastor Geier at 563-357-2795.

#### LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE TWINS

Thirteen members of St. Philip's attended the 2021 Lutheran Night at Target Field. LuAnn Roiger caught these images to share. St. Philip's goes every year to enjoy fellowship and see our name in lights. Next year let's get back to 40 or 50 deciding to go. Take note of Bishop Lull on the big screen offering greetings to all the Lutherans.







A reminder that we are again wearing face masks inside our church facility. THANKS FOR CARING AND WEARING!

#### GARAGE & PLANT SALE PROVED ITS POPULARITY

Deborah Dreher experienced her first year as the sale's lead coordinator, and in that context, the congregation wishes to express its sincere thanks for her weeks of work in preparing and delivering a very successful event.

By the day of the August 7, 2021 sale date, the Delta Variant of Covid 19 was becoming a big concern, but plans for the 16th Garage & Plant Sale were poised for execution. It was clear the "show must go on". Masks were required for the estimated 1200 guests who chose to return to St. Philip's well-known happening. It's likely that attendance numbers surpassed those of previous years, making it an especially grand day.

Numbers of interest:

- Thirty nine members served on the sale's steering committee
- Eighteen members were department heads of ten merchandise departments
- Ninety five member households brought goods for the sale
- An estimated 2,375 items were unpacked, reviewed, and positioned for sale
- Gross proceeds of the combined Garage and Plant Sale = \$18,200. (Promotion costs have not been tallied)

Volunteerism reached a remarkable level all week as people worked with the department heads to create a well organized and attractive sale. Thanks are extended to those who supplied delicious lunches to the workers on the five work days, took deliveries regularly to new locations, repaired items that needed fixing, or went the extra mile to help a fellow volunteer complete a task. It was all felt and appreciated.

Photos Tell More of the Story...



Good signage makes for easy shopping



Rain fell as people waited for the 8 am start



Deborah Dreher inspired the workers before the doors opened with prayer



Sally Anderson has been department head for books for sixteen sales



Books and tapes were totally by category for easy shopping



Furniture was attractively arranged by Mary Charlson and Al Todnem



Margaret Goderstad handed out cloth shopping bags as people entered



Steve Wolverton was one of two mask providers at the door



Sam Willis finds a great buy in former member Bert Goderstad's sport coat





Steve Krey (right) and a friend served as runners and cashiers



Jeanne Cowee took two shifts as a check out person



Lois Twedt and Chey Holm, staying out of the way of shoppers in the Children's department



Ron and Cindy Toppin with son Matt's entire family from Bloomington



Mary Rock served as a "quick check"





Teens recruited by Tammy Krey helped greatly



Tim Preston drumming up business



Many young families came to buy for their children





Bob Cruse served in more ways than can be mentioned all week

#### **KEEPING CONNECTED**

Hello, we are the Carda Family. Chad and I moved to

Hastings in June of 1999. We were married for just over a year when we set down some in this roots "bia" small town. With both of us raised in rural



Minnesota: Chad from Chandler, and I from Blooming Prairie. We wanted a place that was close to the cities but could still experience some of the benefits of living in a tight knit community. Hastings seemed to fit that bill, with a thriving downtown, and corn fields just outside of our window. It was truly the best of both worlds.

Once we were settled, we began to search for a church. We attended services all over Hastings and we weren't married to any specific denomination. Chad grew up Catholic and I grew up Lutheran, but we were open to what felt right for us. We had attended St. Philip's a few different times, but the church was going through a transition. One of the first services we attended, the Pastor announced that he was taking a new call. The next time we visited, Pastor Bill Schroder was acting as an interim pastor. However, each time we attended we were greeted by members and we always felt welcomed by the congregation. We started to attend services at St. Philip's pretty regularly.

Our daughter, Lydia, was born in November 2000 and she was welcomed with open arms. We found a kinship with a group of new parents and began to build friendships that we cherish still today. We were still not members but asked if Lydia could be baptized at the church. A few weeks later we started the new members class, and we officially became members of St. Philip's.

I am sure you all have heard the term "it takes a village to raise a family" and we had found our village. We knew the church had a nursery, but we never seemed to use it. I can remember many Sundays when Lydia was little, and David and Geneva Weisser sat behind us during the service. She was always entranced and entertained. (I think they may have been making some goofy faces at her) David's poor watch became a toy for entertaining a toddler a couple of times. One Sunday when Chad was out of town she climbed over my shoulder or under my chair and found herself in David and Geneva's lap before the service was over.

Our son Matthew was born in August 2003. By this time, St. Philip's was our village, we had become friends with other families that had children near the age of our kids. With our families hours away, our children found pseudo grandparents among the congregation. I can remember going to the Taste on the Tar event when Matthew was just a week or two old. Lydia found her friends and played for hours in the sandbox while Matthew was passed around like a football at an NFL game.

The Taste on The Tar was one of our first events we volunteered for. We helped with set-up and clean-up for the celebration. Then we became involved in the Church Garage Sale. I remember the first year, I worked in Housewares and Chad worked the day of the sale in the Electronics Department. He came in and managed to sell most of the TVs that were donated that first year and I guess we found our calling. The next year Glenda asked Chad and I to be in charge of the Electronics department. It has always been a family endeavor for us Cardas. Lydia and Matthew would come along and "help" us with pricing and merchandising our room. In the early years for Lydia and Matthew the "help" usually meant picking out the best items to buy on sale day. All of the garage sale volunteers were always so wonderful with our kids and truly vested in their lives. I have to say the bonds that we have formed through the garage sale bring us great joy.

Over the years Chad and I have volunteered our time helping with the nursery, church school, Buildings and Grounds committee. I was on the Stewardship Committee, the Chair of the Administration Committee and assisted with multiple capital campaign drives. Each opportunity gave us a unique perspective in the operations of the church and helped us to connect with other members of the church and staff.

The kids both went to church school on Sundays, and attended the preschool here at St. Philip's. I can remember many children's sermons with Pastor Ed or Pastor Leslie and holding my breath wondering what enlightening bit of information my children would share. Lydia and Matthew were both involved in the Children's Choir and participated in the Children's Musical where they would entertain us with the stories of the Bible. They attended confirmation classes and were confirmed at St. Philip's. We have been blessed by all of the Volunteers that have taught our children, loved our children, and celebrated their successes

with them and us. Our children's closest friends are the ones they made within the walls of St. Philip's.

I recall as we prepared for their faith statements, talking amongst the parents how each of our kids had been there for each other and how the friendships that are forged with walls of a church are special. It is a unique bond built on faith and love for one another. We witnessed over, and over, how they would rally and support each other. When times were tough, they had each other's back. Again, as I said earlier it takes a village to raise a family.

Lydia is off to college and a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard. Matthew is a senior at Hastings High School. Chad and I are preparing to become empty nesters in a year. It feels good to know that we have helped them to build a strong foundation built on faith.

We are so glad we found St. Philip's and better yet that St. Philip's found us. The road is not always smooth, and this pandemic has been difficult to navigate. We miss seeing so many of the families that make St. Philip's great but know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. This too shall pass.

God bless you all, Chad, Natalie, Lydia and Matthew Carda

Hi! We're Dan and Jennie Thomas. Although we were both born in Iowa, Dan

stayed in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University in math and computer science while Jennie and her mother, Ione Orr, moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho when Jennie was four. Jennie went to Michigan



State University for both an undergrad degree in computer science and her MD degree, not returning to lowa until residency. We met in a Lutheran church singles group in Cedar Rapids, lowa, where Dan had his first computer job and Jennie did her Family Practice specialty training.

We moved to Hastings in September of 1980, right after returning from our honeymoon, because Jennie, otherwise known as Dr. Orr, took a job at the clinic, clear back when it was known as Westview Medical Center and was at 955 Highway 55. We looked for a LCA or ALC church as soon as we moved to town and started out at Our Saviour's, but soon discovered it didn't fit our "get there without a minute to spare" lifestyle, so we tried St. Philip's. St. Philip's had room for us in early 1981 and we have been members ever since. Our children, Lori and Joel, grew up at St. Philip's, sang in the Children's Choir and participated in the Musicals after Ellen Diischer arrived. We joined the 500 card club when it first formed, using Ruth and Raul Jackson's kids as baby sitters and enjoyed the fact that we were among many families with kids about the ages of ours and that kids and their unpredictability were not only tolerated but encouraged in worship, even after Lori crawled across the live organ pedals once during a sermon!

Jennie was a Family Practice doctor with OB at Allina and its predecessors for 37 years until retiring from primary care in January of 2017, although she continued to do some very part time supervision of a residency outpatient clinic until COVID hit last year. From 1997 to 2016, when she needed to stay closer to home to care for her mother. Jennie made a number of two-to-six-week trips overseas to teach OB skills and provide C-section coverage in a variety of less developed medical settings, mostly in South Asia, but also at a small hospital in Guatemala that Cindy Toppin connected her with! She has really appreciated the prayer and family support of St. Philip's that helped her be able to do that. Now that she is retired. Jennie spends her time quilting, reading, volunteering in smaller ways and trying to get rid of excess "stuff" and has no idea where she ever had time to work, too!

Dan spent most of his career as a computer software engineer for a variety of companies from Eden Prairie to Rochester. He retired from that in the early 2000s but has been doing taxes seasonally for H&R Block for 16 years, mostly in Rosemont, and continues to enjoy it. Since last fall he has even been working part time off season in the Apple Valley Block office. He loves watching sports, especially professional baseball, and likes to take a couple of bus trips a year to see baseball in many different cities and stadiums. He missed that travel last summer and has already taken one baseball trip to Chicago and points east that he thoroughly enjoyed. He is currently planning another one to Arizona and California for the end of August.

Our kids are grown and gone, with Lori doing software engineering for Devoted Healthcare in the Boston area, and Joel living in his late grandmother's former townhouse here in town and now working as an AV installer for Alpha Audio and Visual, headquartered in Eden Prairie.

In 1994, Jennie's mother, Ione Orr, moved to Hastings to live near us after she had retired and her own mother that she had been caring for died. She was fiercely independent and lived in a single-family home on Ashland next door to Jim and Carla Wick for 11 years before moving into a one level townhouse near Barb Jorenby when she could no longer drive and wanted to be closer to the church and stores so she could walk to them, which she did for several more years! After college, when he didn't immediately find a job, Joel was her assistant/driver until Jennie retired and took over the caregiving just a month after Joel found a full-time job. That lasted until lone needed the 24/7 care of Oakridge Memory Care, where she lived just over a year until her death on September 2, 2020. We hope to have her delayed memorial service September 3 of this year, although the new information about the COVID Delta variant could throw a monkey wrench in that plan.

Over the years we've worn many hats at St. Philip's. Jennie mostly teaching Sunday School and Adult Ed and helping with VBS and being on committees, usually having to do with Adult Spiritual Growth. Dan has been a counter for many years and sometimes on the Audit committee as well as ushering when called on. We went through Cursillo in 1990 and have been part of the Saturday morning Bible study groups at times over the years and have both worked on Cursillo teams, although not recently. When Joel, who had been one of the early Sound Board volunteers, started working weekends, he persuaded Jennie to "cover for him" and ultimately, she took his place on the regular Sound Board rotation before COVID. She has also been on the Prayer Team basically since its inception. About three years ago, not long after she mostly retired, Jennie met Gerry and Julie Cardinal while serving at Third Thursday Phil-up and found in Gerry a fellow quilter who was looking for a way to continue doing Lutheran World Relief guilts like he was used to doing in his previous congregation. Since Jennie also wanted to use guilting and other skills for charitable causes, with the help of Stephanie Becken, we started Do Days, where we frequently tie quilts, whose tops Gerry has made at home, but we have also made fleece blankets for baptisms and Camp Noah plus winter hats for homeless people and refugees new to Minnesota, bags for the Luther World Relief school kits, and knit prayer shawls and baby hats, too.

Between the time we finished putting kids through college and when lone became too fragile for Jennie to be too far away, we tried to take one big overseas trip to somewhere new every year. We hope to resume that habit again in 2022 if COVID allows. We have felt truly blessed and tried to live out the concept of "Blessed to Be a Blessing." St. Philip's has been a support and inspiration in that for us for over 40 years. Thanks be to God!

Hello from the Barkers! We joined St. Philip's in 2010



when our children were 3, 7, and 9 years old and we were looking for a new church community. What a great place we found! When we came to visit for the

first time, we felt so welcomed. We officially became members a few months after our first visit and quickly became involved in the church. Over the years, we've been involved in Church Council, Sound Board, Sunday School and confirmation.

Nowadays, our kids keep us very busy outside of church. Ellie, our oldest, is 20 and excited to be heading back to Winona State this fall. She spent time attending college from home during COVID and is looking forward to being back on campus. She is majoring in marketing and is looking forward to a Semester at Sea in the Spring of 2023. She will be traveling to 14 different countries during that time! This summer, she worked at Menards and went on her first road trip with a friend.

Molly, our middle child, is 18 and headed off to the University of Minnesota – Duluth this fall to double major in political science and history. Her senior year was certainly not the one she expected it to be, but she certainly made the best of it! She competed in nine different dance routines this past spring, ending her 15 year dance career. She got to attend Prom and we were excited to be able to see her graduate in a "normal" ceremony on the football field. This summer, she has spent a lot of time with friends and getting ready to move into the dorms.

Nathan, our youngest, is 14 and starting High School this fall. He is very busy with dance, mountain biking, swimming, diving, and playing video games with his friends. He even has his own Twitch stream! He is looking forward to joining Show Choir and playing Ultimate Frisbee at the high school this year.

Adam and Andi have been working from home since

March 2020 and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Adam is the Director of Office 365 at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and Andi is the Policy Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. As a family, we enjoy spending time together and travelling. We are looking forward to getting back to our travel plans!

Thank you to everyone at St. Philip's who make the church a special place! We wish you all health and happiness and look forward to seeing you in person soon.

#### **CONFIRMATION FAITH STATEMENTS**

Julia Ronning displayed a sound grasp on the meaning of grace along with giving credit to those who have been instrumental in her faith maturity. Unique to statement was Julia's her reference to the German Lutheran theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer whose courage during the Nazi regime had become an inspiration to Julia. Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, September 26.



**THE PASSION PLAY** performed in Oberammergau, Germany, every ten years, has been postponed to 2022. Landmark Tours includes the play in its 12-day Heart of Europe tour, September 12-23, 2022. There are still openings in this Germany-Switzerland-Austria tour. If you'd like more information, please contact Carolyn Schaar, 651-437-1633.

#### **QUILTS CREATED FOR CHARITIES**



Darla Kimmes, one of St. Philip's quilters has been doing quilts for her own on Lutheran World Relief local and charities in need. Darla lives the "Grace Giving" in her of outreach efforts.

#### KAYAK TRIP ADVENTURE

On Saturday, August 21, the high schoolers took a kayaking trip on the Cannon River! The water level was very low, so most (if not all) of us bottomed out several times, but helping each other get "unstuck" from the rocks was just part of the fun! The weather was beautiful and we all had a great time. We got to see a lot of toads, crayfish, and minnows too! It was definitely a fun-filled day, and we might just do it again next year!







**ST. PHILIP'S STAFF** 

**Gregory Geier, Pastor** pastorgeier@splchastings.org

Noreen Swanson, Organist swansonhastings@centurylink.net

Ellen Diischer, Music Director ellend@splchastings.org

Sarah Bennett, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries sarahb@splchastings.org

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Rachel Moritz, Assistant Teacher

#### 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

front cover art: https://depositphotos.com/category/people.html

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