

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

July 2022

FAMILY GAGA BALL / FIELD GAME NIGHT
JULY 6 AND 20 AT 6:00 PM

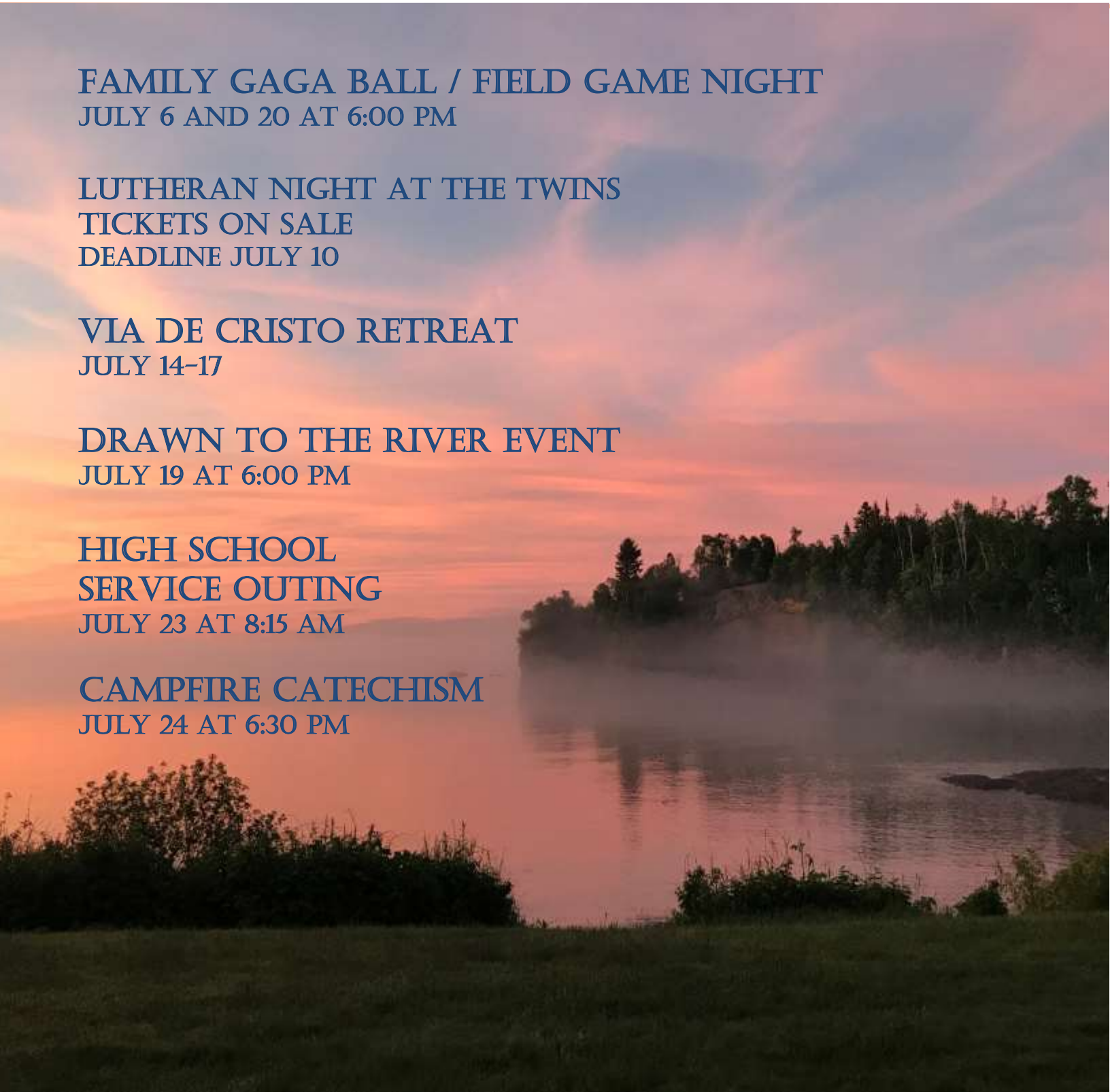
LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE TWINS
TICKETS ON SALE
DEADLINE JULY 10

VIA DE CRISTO RETREAT
JULY 14-17

DRAWN TO THE RIVER EVENT
JULY 19 AT 6:00 PM

**HIGH SCHOOL
SERVICE OUTING**
JULY 23 AT 8:15 AM

CAMPFIRE CATECHISM
JULY 24 AT 6:30 PM



Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Luke 11:13
from the gospel for July 24

Well? What do you think? Do most parents know how to care for their children? Have you ever given your child a snake? Or a scorpion? Me neither! I am guessing though that being a good parent is more than just avoiding gifts or activities that put them in harm's way. Do more parents know how to best care for their children? They must, for about the most common commendations of even evil people is, "He/she was a caring father/mother." This phrase or something very much like it is probably the most frequent statement found in the daily obituaries. Even criminals and drug dealers love their children. The police have captured some wanted men in the past by keeping watch on their children, confident that the criminal parent would seek to contact the child.

Jesus makes his point: If it is true that even bad folks are inclined to do good things for their sons and daughters, just imagine the great good the author of good, the heavenly Father will do for his children!

No evil comes from God. No harm hides within God's active care. Even the worst things that befall us, Paul testifies, are able to be worked by our loving Lord for something good. (See Romans 8:28) Do you want proof that that is true? Look at Calvary, on a Friday that only children of the Father would call good.

Every one of us who is a parent knows that we have all fallen short of loving our children perfectly. Our own habits and idiosyncrasies that we received from our parents become evident in each new generation and not all of them are good. But we do our best and hope for the best and trust that somehow, some way, our daughters and sons will know how very much we love them.

Somehow, some way, God chose to love us with a

perfect love and bestow on us his unconditional grace, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus Christ. As God's children, we are given the gift of faith to know and trust our heavenly Father loves us and will bless us with good gifts in this life, and with eternal salvation in the life to come. Thanks be to God!

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier

– AMONG OUR OWN –

Sympathies...

Amy and Pastor Geier and family as they mourn the death of Amy's mother Sally Parmeter

Andy Lindberg and family as they mourn the death of his father Jon Lindberg

Doug and Danna Schultz family as they mourn the death of their nephew/cousin Jakob Markham

Congratulations...

Ron and Terry Ferriss on their 45th wedding anniversary July 2

Jim and Diane Anderson on their 35th wedding anniversary July 18

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 3	Isaiah 66:10-14 Galatians [1-6] 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 10	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37
July 17	Genesis 18:1-10a Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42
July 24	Genesis 18:20-32 Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19] Luke 11:1-13
July 31	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It may still be the middle of summer, but Sunday school registration for the fall is open! Go to splchastings.org and go to the Sunday school page for a link to online registration. Be sure to mark your calendars for Rally Day on September 11!

Thank You!

Thank you for your prayers, thoughts and cards. Thank you to Pastor Geier for his kind visits. It is good to be back worshipping in church

Janice Dahl

A Thank You to St. Philip's Boy Scout Troop 29,

Troop 29 had recently approached the congregation and offered its help with tasks and events when appropriate. The Garage and Plant Sale became a recent opportunity.

An estimated 12 to 14 Scouts began helping on set-up Sunday, June 6. Mothers and fathers along with scouts helped bring fixtures into the church and do other tasks as directed. They continued to help every day from 5-7 pm with whatever tasks were necessary. On sale day, they were carry-out people for the hundreds of customers who came. St. Philip's expresses its sincere thanks to the dedication the Troop gave to the Garage and Plant Sale effort.



GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE

May 2022

Actual	Budget	2021 Actual
<u>General and Miscellaneous Income YTD</u>		
\$219,245.32	\$211,061.60	\$211,210.07
<u>Capital Fund YTD</u>		
\$70,390.50	\$72,288.46	\$70,195.50
<u>Operational Expenses YTD</u>		
\$274,156.88	\$288,699.21	\$252,905.93
<u>Over / (Short)</u>		
\$15,478.94	(\$5,349.15)	\$28,499.64



Please Wear Your Nametags!

Wearing your nametag, (found in the kiosk drawers next to the welcome center,) is a simple way St. Philip's Lutheran Church can be a more welcoming and friendly community of faith. Taking the time to put on your nametag is a small investment in helping visitors and newer member learn who your name and who you are.

It may add two minutes to your day to put it on and then return it before heading home, but it will pay dividends in creating a more hospitable environment for both new and long-term members. You can be exempt from wearing your nametag if you are able to name every person in worship on a given Sunday.

Let's get back in the practice!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE REGULAR COFFEE GROUNDS for your Sunday morning cup of coffee at church, please leave the containers at the welcome center. We have enough decaf at the moment.



DONUT HOLE WRANGLERS NEEDED

Can you help us get our much enjoyed donut holes to church on Sunday? See kiosk for details and signup for one or more weeks. Any questions? Feel free to check with Camille Nelson.



Come Join a Conversation about the Apostles' Creed!

NOTE: DATE CHANGE FOR AUGUST!

We are spending three Sunday evenings this summer reflecting on Christianity's most popular statement of faith. Come join our time of guided conversation and fellowship around our campfire ring. (If it is raining or over 90 degrees, we will plan to move inside.)

Bring a chair and come join us around the fire pit at St. Philip's June 26, July 24 and August 21 for a time of conversation and reflection on a part of our Christian and Lutheran heritage. There is no required memorization and if you can only make it to one, we'd love to see you!

** Please note our August date has moved to August 21 so that we can go out on August 28 and hear the Double Down Daredevils at the LeDuc while St. Philip's serves pie and ice cream!*

June 26 at 6:30 pm

Article 1, God the Father

July 24 at 6:30 pm

Article 2, God the Son

August 21 at 6:30 pm

Article 3, God the Holy Spirit

BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will be at St. Philip's on August 25 from 12-6 pm to collect blood donations. Watch for upcoming information on signing up for donating blood and helping at the blood drive.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Why don't we sing patriotic hymns on Sundays closest to Memorial Day, July 4th, and Veterans' Day?

I will try to briefly share my thoughts with you regarding patriotic songs as part of a Christian worship but am open to additional conversations if you so desire.

My theological concerns with patriotic hymns are two-fold. First, if Pentecost and the book of Acts taught us anything, it's that the message of Christ is for everyone, everywhere, of every language, tribe, and nation. I believe many patriotic hymns do a disservice to that message. If one of the marks of the Christian church is its inclusiveness, then patriotic songs about America (or any other country) do not seem particularly appropriate in worship.

Second, and more importantly, idolatry becomes a real problem. Patriotic songs often glorify the country or its history, gloss over its faults, and assume that one country receives special perks from God. It seems to me that one can express (national) gratitude to God in more humble ways. We are called to love the nation in which God has planted us.

But there is an American exceptionalism present in so many of these patriotic hymns that fosters a love for a kingdom which rivals the kingdom of God. There is an aspect of prayer for the nation in many of these hymns which I would heartily approve. But I cannot get beyond the bad theology of American exceptionalism and for that reason, I believe they do more harm than good.

I will continue to lift up in our corporate prayers those men and women serving in our armed forces as well as give thanks for those who have died in service to our country.

Thanks for asking!

Pastor Geier

DRAWN TO THE RIVER

“Drawn to the River” is a unique event happening Tuesday, July 19 at 6 pm down at the Rotary Pavilion in Levee Park, downtown Hastings.

Paul Oman, the artist who came and did live, the large “Jesus and the Children” painting, which you see every Sunday in the narthex, will be doing a public art piece which will depict Hastings landmarks and evidence of its multi-cultural past and present existence.



It's a one hour event with Paul Oman painting while a selected group of people will do short messages about their role in art and in other special aspects about Hastings.

It's for all ages, it's free, and it will be the kind of event one rarely gets to enjoy. Please mark your calendar for it. St. Philip's is coordinating the details along with some of its funding. Watch for its promotion on Facebook and share it with your Facebook friends. We'd like an ample crowd.

CHOIR / HANDBELL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE



Part time/non-exempt 15 hours/week, 9 months/year: weekday, weeknight, weekends. *(will consider splitting the position for the right candidate)*

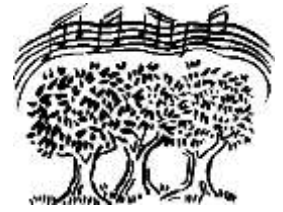
Job Summary: Responsible for leading and engaging congregation of St. Philip's in the ministry of music. Direct Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Adult Handbell Choir and Children's Handbell Choir. Participate with Pastor, Staff and Worship and Music Ministry Team in preparation of music for worship services.

Requirements: Bachelors' Degree of Music desired; 3 years choral or instrumental directing experience; Demonstrated piano, computer skills, ability to read music and copyright laws; Cohesive engagement with broader staff of St. Philip's; Multi-generational (children, youth, family and adults) experience desired; Physically able to lift music monitors and handbell tables. Contact: Pastor Greg Geier: pastorgeier@splchastings.org

PIE AT THE HISTORIC LeDUC

Sunday, August 28

St. Philip's offers homemade pie at one of the outdoor concert offerings behind the Historic LeDuc Mansion on Vermillion Street every year.



We will need 28 pies and two pans of brownies, frosted or not. Last year 187 people came to the concert on our night. It's the last concert so that is likely to happen again if weather is good. When weather is not good the concert is moved to St. Luke's Episcopal Church also on Vermillion Street, and we sell pie there. The proceeds of this effort are earmarked for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, an institution serving all Minnesota counties with aid and support.

Music will be by the Double Down Daredevils, which we know well from our June worship service. They will begin at 6 pm. We'll be ready to sell pie by 5:30 pm.

Watch the kiosk to sign up for one or two homemade pies. Volunteers are also needed to set up the tables which are on site and help cut and place pie pieces in containers, plus coffee and ice cream details. At least 15 volunteers are needed.

This is a fun night where St. Philip's is again being present in its community for all kinds of good reasons. Questions? Contact Glenda Schnirring at 651-437-6246 or gleners@embarqmail.com.

It's the year to go to:

LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE TWINS



Every year for a long time, St. Philip's has had up to 50 people attend Lutheran Night at the Twins. This year the game is Tuesday August 2, at 6:40 pm with the Detroit Tigers. Ticket price has gone up to \$36.50 per ticket. We'd be in the same section we've come to enjoy. Transportation is on your own. A sign-up sheet is on the kiosk or call Glenda Schnirring at 651-437-6246. Sign up anytime, payment is not needed until Sunday, July 10, payable to Glenda Schnirring. Glenda receives the tickets well before the game day and gets them to you. Forty seats have been saved but Glenda can add seats if needed. Recent seasons have kept people from going. We expect more fun this year.

HONORING ST. PHILIP'S GRADUATES

Fourteen seniors from Hastings High School, who are also members of St. Philip's were honored June 5. The service included their participation, and they were brought forward for a responsive litany which was done responsively with the congregation. Each graduate was recognized on the screen with a photo, and their intended future plans. It was a very nice way to send the sons and daughters of the congregation into their next phase of life. God Bless them all.



Pastor Geier leads the congregation in a responsive reading for the graduates



Communion is served to each graduate by Pastor Geier



Ethan Bernt, Matt Carda, Steven Krey, and Brody Hampl enjoying the after service reception



Katelynn Krey, Kendal Jenkins and Alisha Brown sharing time after the service



Claire Meier, Megan Langenfeld and Molly Gathje, enjoying a donut treat



VBS 2022

We had a wonderful time at our 2022 Vacation Bible School, Discovery on Adventure Island! Our theme verse was Isaiah 60:1--"Arise! Shine! The Lord's glory has shone upon you!" Every day we set on a quest to find the different "infinity lanterns" of God's light: the lights of love, trust, faith, and hope. A couple favorite songs were "I Feel Like Dancin'" and "Your Light Has Come." THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who made this ministry possible!



2022 GARAGE & PLANT SALE TOPPED ALL, SO FAR!

It's been said that if you build it, they will come, and come they did. Without question, St. Philip's 17th garage and plant sale, had its largest number (upwards of 900) of shoppers ever. It was a glorious day with good weather, and at least 60 volunteers serving the welcomed guests.

Deborah Dreher is to be thanked repeatedly for leading St. Philip's through what's become known throughout the region as an event not to miss. The Garage & Plant Sale generates continual goodwill through modestly priced goods that noticeably helps many shoppers meet their essential needs of living, and enjoy the community of friendship which engulfs the day.

Gross proceeds at the time of this writing, totaled \$20,300 which is a full two thousand plus more than any previous sale. Roughly 35 to 40 people worked every day, carrying, repairing, polishing, cleaning, staging, and pricing the thousands of items donated by members. A gracious thank-you is extended to all who donated to the sale.

The Plant Sale led by Geneva Weisser, with David Weisser giving full support, provides the day with that touch of beauty to the grounds as one enters the "Sale" site. Less plants were on display this year but in excess of \$3,000 was generated which is included in the gross proceeds. Enormous thanks to those who divided plants from their gardens, and brought them in great condition and ready for sale.

Members need to congratulate and thank each other for the emotional lift this kind of success generates for the congregation's collective spirit.



Garage & Plant Sale lead coordinator, Deborah Dreher, enjoying a very successful outcome



Pastor Geier, makes sure a game works, plus recorded daily views from the sale prep areas



Vicki Pavlish, co-lead with Marita Legreid, surrounded by linens



Eunice Jilk and Margaret Goderstad pricing apparel throughout the week



Pam Hoffman and Romayne Garloff take on polishing silver



Al Todnem, co-leads indoor/outdoor furniture with Mary Charlson



A handsome display of collectible pottery, in Patty Todnem's kitchen department



Having recently dealt with a shoulder condition, Janice Dahl dutifully takes a role in Sue Cruse's Adult Apparel department



Lois Twedt was co-lead with Arlene Wellemeyer in Children's



Rick and Deb Carlson worked every day on Hardware, Electronics, and general display and pricing when needed



Pam Hoffman and Patty Todnem preparing all donations to look their best



At 8 am, the waiting crowd stretched around the corner to Pleasant Street



St. Philip's Scout Troop 29, helped enormously all seven days of the Garage & Plant Sale



Ron and Cindy Toppin serving as cashiers, plus handlings shoes, boxes and salvation army deliveries during the week



Deborah Dreher and a customer who had just purchased the beautiful spinning wheel.



Laura Zabel (right) with daughter Jolena and grandson finding a new toy

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Worship and Music Ministry Team has been tasked, with the approval of the Council, to explore spirituals sung in worship, and to find out more about their historical significance in the interest of social justice. During our May 31 meeting Raul Jackson asked why “I’ll Fly Away” is considered a spiritual. Many of us are familiar with “I’ll Fly Away” since we have sung this familiar congregational song many times. However, it is not in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, 2006. Hmm? In Eileen Guenther’s (2016) publication *In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals* answers were found! Here’s a bit of information about the tradition of spirituals in the ELW.

Songs labeled as Spirituals can be found throughout the ELW. Interestingly, “I’ll Fly Away” is not in the ELW; however, there are almost 20 titles that are categorized as African American spirituals. Examples include “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (hymn #290), “Were You There” (hymn #353), “This Little Light of Mine” (hymn #677), and “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me” (hymn #859). When Nathan Griner was our second service worship leader, we sang the African American spiritual “I’ll Fly Away” often. Did you know it is *not in our ELW*? What message does this popular African American spiritual communicate?

The answer to Raul’s question, why is “I’ll Fly Away” a Spiritual is found in Guenther’s (2016) Chapter 18: Themes of Spirituals: *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* (pages 353-395): “Spirituals are [social] snapshots. They paint many-faceted pictures of an enslaved population in the words of slaves as they describe their housing, food, clothing, resistance, and evangelization” (page 353). In Guenther’s discussion of spiritual themes, she categories social issues from Code Songs, Community Life, Death, and Freedom. “I’ll Fly Away” is one of several spirituals that focus on themes of “Freedom / Heaven / Salvation / Second Coming / Jordan River” and Resurrection. Guenther’s summary statement informs the themes in and the significance of spirituals, “Spirituals are music of protest and music of social justice, and there are more spirituals devoted to these subjects than to any other. . . Many Spirituals focus on God’s power to liberate – to give spiritual liberation as well as literal freedom from slavery” (page 366).

A sub-committee of the Worship and Music Ministry Team, led by Darlene Olson, will continue to explore and inform the congregation of songs in which Social

Justice themes appear. As Guenther states, “That the Bible forms the material for the songs is no surprise; it was so important to the slaves that they were willing to risk punishment to learn to read, specifically to read the Bible” (page 353). If Raul’s question sparks *your* interest about spirituals and/or other hymns in our ELW, Darlene, on behalf of Worship and Music, will be happy to find more answers to your questions. Peace to you all!

JULY VIA DE CRISTO RETREAT

A Via De Cristo retreat is an opportunity for adults to expand their understanding of God’s vastly deep love and grace. It’s a way to see the world with renewed joy and energy!

Beginning on a Thursday evening your friendship circle will begin to expand. Friday, Saturday and Sunday are packed full of music, insightful presentations, shared reflections, worship, laughter, fun, time away from responsibilities, and a sense of being in God’s time and love.

In respect for containing costs, each retreat is held at a host church. It is run similar to a “lock-in”. Cots, meals and, of course, meaningful activities are provided. If you wrestle with the thought of special considerations for your health needs or in maintaining family routines at home, let the VDC community know what is important to you. A very short registration form is available. Your special concerns can be noted. This July’s retreat is open to both men and women, July 14-17.

Teens will tell you how much fun and how many seeds of thought are planted at youth retreats. They are so right! In that vein I want to invite every adult to continue your journey with Christ. The Via De Cristo retreat experience requires some sacrifice in our over abundantly planned lives but, as with youth retreats, you will find it to be a gift to yourself, followed by: “I’m so glad I went!”.

More detailed information is available on a St. Philip’s hallway bulletin board, by contacting Paul or Carol Hellen (651-437-1702), by talking with Pastor Geier, or by visiting with any member who has previously attended a VDC weekend. I’m SURE you will enjoy and value your weekend retreat experience--together in Christ’s grace and love!



GAGA BALL AND FIELD GAME NIGHTS

On Wednesday, July 6, we will have our first gaga ball and field game night for families! From 6:00-7:00 pm, we'll play gaga ball and any other games we're in the mood for. This is open to all ages and there's no need to register. Just show up and hang out with us!

Other dates for field game nights are July 20, August 3, and August 17. Questions? Contact Sarah Bennett.

HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE OUTING

If you are a high schooler join us on Saturday, July 23 for our service project and Grand Slam outing! First we'll do a shift at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, then have lunch and play laser tag, mini golf, and crazy karts at Grand Slam in Burnsville! Cost is \$10 per person. Meet in the St. Philip's parking lot at 8:15 am and we'll ride over together (parent drivers/chaperones welcome)! Questions? Contact Sarah Bennett

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

We had a wonderful outdoor worship service on the south lawn at St. Philip's on Sunday, June 19. One hundred and fifty-five people attended, enjoyed the sunny weather while worshipping and enjoying the Double Down Daredevils as they led the music. A nice cold ice cream treat was served afterwards.



KEEPING CONNECTED

Hello from Darryl and Camille Nelson.



Like many St. Philip's families, we searched for a church home when our first son, Jay, was born in 1978. From different faith backgrounds, we were looking for a place where we could both be comfortable. Friends recommended St. Philip's, and from the first Sunday

visit, we felt most welcomed and confident it would be a good fit. Margaret and Bert Goderstad were two of the many familiar faces, as we had met them when I was in a community theater production with them in 1972. In fact, the lead in the play, *Matchmaker*, introduced Darryl and me, so she really was a matchmaker! Darryl's from Sioux City, Iowa, I'm from Coates, and we've lived in Vermillion since 1976.

One of my earliest St. Philip's memories was a Bible study at Raul and Ruth Jackson's. Salvation through Grace was the theme. It was such reassurance that Jesus is my Savior; it's not my works that promises Heaven.

Our three sons Jay, Jeff, and Brett were baptized, confirmed and married by St. Philip's clergy. But Brett was fortunate to have his wedding ceremony in our new sanctuary. As the boys made life-long friendships in their church activities, I was on education and youth committees, taught Sunday school and Bible school, was Bible school and fundraiser coordinator, Mission Mexico leader, mentor and chaperone.

When Brett was a preschooler, I had the opportunity to be one of the first teachers of the Early Learning Center. It's heartwarming to see such a vital Christian outreach to the community of Hastings, and I'm proud to continue to be on the advisory board of St. Philip's Preschool. The staff has done so admirably with the program, especially with challenges through pandemic years.

I've enjoyed friendships and spiritual growth made through Bible study groups, kitchen crews, church council positions, fundraisers, Adult Ed, and WELCA. Presently I'm chair of the Fellowship Ministry team.

Darryl has chaired and helped with Buildings and Grounds committees, and for years enjoyed playing organ prelude music for the Advent Candlelight Buffet.

After 35 years as systems analyst at Unisys, Darryl retired in 2006; and I retired in 2014, after 15 years teaching at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. We enjoy fishing and family time on Lake Marion in Ottertail County, gardening, and Darryl likes remote control airplanes. We're fortunate to have family living near, so we can watch the four grandchildren in their many activities. And we look forward to cruising again with the 1967 GTX Plymouth convertible that Darryl has owned since 1969!

We have been so blessed over the years by our St. Philip's friends and church family!

Camille for the Nelson Clan in Vermillion

My husband Dennis and I have been worshipping at St. Philip's since July of 2017. We attended with our daughter Jen, son-in-law Jordan, and two grandchildren, Connor and Mackenzie.



The members we met were friendly and welcoming. It made the decision to join the church in May 2019 an easy one. I enjoyed joining in to help with the garage sale that year. I met so many nice people and was hooked on St. Philip's. My story is a little different from those you usually read here but I really wanted to share it.

It was during my drive home the week of the garage sale prep in 2019 that I got a call from my mom. It was unusual since she and I had a somewhat strained relationship at this point. My parents retired in early 2000 and were enjoying the freedom of traveling and living their own life independent of me, my three brothers, and our families. At the time, I had a brother and his family that had been estranged from the rest of us for nearly 20 years even though we all (at that time) lived within miles of one another.

Back to the call. Mom told me that her doctor diagnosed early stages of dementia. In her time of

fear and need, she had reached out to me. She was frightened. I was too, but instead of saying this I told her that we would get through this together and take care of her. Little did I know how this journey would progress and how God would pour blessings upon all of us at such a painful and difficult time.

In October of 2018, I got a message from my estranged sister-in-law. She said that she and my brother were concerned about Mom and asked if we could meet. This was an uncomfortable meeting due to the years of separation and hard feelings. We met at my oldest brother's house along with my two younger brothers to talk about how we could support our parents. We agreed to leave the past behind and move forward together for the good of our parents. Sounded good in theory but was it possible? I lived 180 miles away and they were all local. I agreed to manage finances and health needs. They agreed to be the local support.

Of course, my dad had great needs at this time as well. He was in his early 80's with health challenges but more importantly, he was watching the love of his life being slowly taken away from him. We agreed that Dad was allowed to make the major decisions and we would try to support them. Normally a sweet-natured and happy guy, my dad was very difficult to work with. He lashed out and pushed away our efforts to help. For a time, we had to stand by and do nothing.

There were many painful events through this two-year period of time that anyone who has been in our situation would attest to. Mom was also in poor physical health and Dad was exhausted. When the Covid quarantine hit, eight weeks of separation was when I lost my mom altogether. When I returned in June, she had forgotten who I was. She didn't know who my dad was. She knew who I was only when she called me on the phone, and there were lots of calls to me and my brothers. She'd forgotten her marriage, where she lived, and wondered where her mother was. She saw people that weren't there. She lashed out and wandered from home, one time resulting in a police search.

We found two wonderful home caregivers who taught me so much and loved me and my family through the worst. I learned to gently enter Mom's world and accept her where she was. This ugly disease turned Mom into a different person. Gone was her tough exterior and blunt comments. We made small talk and laughed together. She came to trust me explicitly and I found a new love and tenderness for her that I'd never quite managed. This was my greatest gift from God.

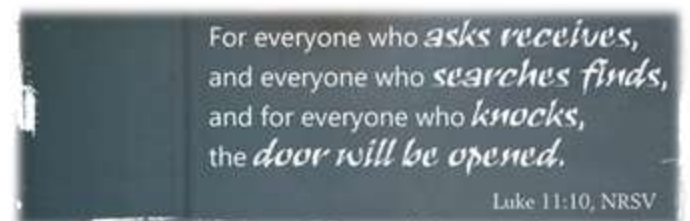
I visited often and as she declined, I needed to be there even more. We were on waiting lists at the only two local assisted living facilities, but Dad still did not want to give up caring for her.

The day came when we had to move her to a memory care facility. Because of Covid, I wasn't allowed to come inside and get Mom settled. Another miracle came in a phone call from Bell Tower 30 minutes before we left telling me they'd made an exception. My oldest brother followed me and waited in the parking lot until he knew I would be able to manage on my own. I spent the entire day with Mom, a full 8-hours of highs and lows. It was an honor to be with Mom during this time. She thought I was a nurse. She showed me pictures of my family (and me) and told me stories about them. I was at peace with this since it meant she didn't have to be with family to feel safe.

Mom lived only three short months after she moved. There were so many trials during this time but the staff took expert and tender care of her. As with so many others, the bubble of Covid had invaded my family in such painful ways. Even as her medical power of attorney, I wasn't allowed to be in the hospital with her when she broke her femur, had surgery, contracted Covid and was quarantined at the hospital. Mom was released from the hospital less than a week before her passing. My whole family was allowed to be with her at that time. The assisted living staff took precautions but allowed us the privacy to be with her to say goodbye.

This was a time of exquisite pain and boundless blessings. It has been another long chapter adjusting to life "after," but my family has stuck together to support our dad and each other. I continue to be guided by Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

Dennis and Dawn Gourlie



		Worship Leaders				
		July 2022				
		July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
	9:30		9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
Worship Coordinator	Connie Ball Mary Rock	Judy Hansen Michelle Carlson	Jay & Becky Raimann	Katy Lindberg Michelle Carlson	Bruce & Brenda Arndtson	
Greeter	Lori Best	Glenda Schnirring	Lois Wroge	Earl & Kathy Stockman	Tony & Kelly Nichols	
Usher	Dan & Jennie Thomas	Al and Patty Todnem	Lance & Lois Twedt	Kent & Pam Hoffman	Jay & Becky Raimann	
Lector	Lori Best	Glenda Schnirring	Jan Kochendorfer	Darla Kimmes	Deborah Dreher	
Communion Bread	Pastor Mark Hillmer Lori Best	Pastor Geier Maria Legreid	Pastor Geier Jan Kochendorfer	Pastor Geier Darla Kimmes	Pastor Geier Deborah Dreher	
Communion Wine	Judy Werner Geneva Weisser	Glenda Schnirring Bruce Arndtson	Maria Gathje Jennie Orr Thomas	Darlene Olson Dale Andrews	Kelly Nichols Beth Fahstrom	
Acolyte						
Sound Board						
Prayer Chapel	Jennie Thomas	Sue Retka	Barb Jorenby	Judy Werner	Geri Holmseth	
Music Leader/ Cantor	Maria Gathje	Jan Kochendorfer	Lori Best	Raul Jackson	Ryan Hummel	

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 Lutheran Church						July 2022	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
3 9:30 am Worship In Person & Livestream	4 4th OF JULY Office Closed 5:30 pm CMT 7:00 pm Faith Formation Ministry	5 11:00 am Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Unity	6 6:00 pm Gaga Ball / Field Game Night	7 11:00 am Meals on Wheels 1:00 pm Do Days	8	9 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	2 7:00 am Men's Bible Study
10 9:30 am Worship In Person & Livestream	11 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Finance Ministry	12 4:00 pm Unity 6:00 pm Fellowship Community Ministry 8:00 pm Prayer Team 8:00 pm Stewardship Ministry 8:00 pm Worship & Music Ministry	13	14 7:00 pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting	15	16 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	
17 9:30 am Worship In Person & Livestream	18 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Council	19 4:00 pm Unity 6:00 pm Drawn to the River	20 6:00 pm Gaga Ball / Field Game Night	21 11:00 am Meals on Wheels 1:00 pm Do Days	22 5:00 pm Schultz Wedding Rehearsal	23 8:00 am 8:15 am Women's Bible Study High School Service Project	
24 9:30 am Worship In Person & Livestream 6:30 pm Campfire Catechism	25 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Adult Spiritual Growth	26 4:00 pm Unity	27	28	29	30 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	
31 9:30 am Worship In Person & Livestream							

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

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Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher

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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:

In Person and Livestream Worship at 9:30 am

(Livestream link on www.splchastings.org,

YouTube and Facebook)

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