

# 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*

November 2022

## November Happenings

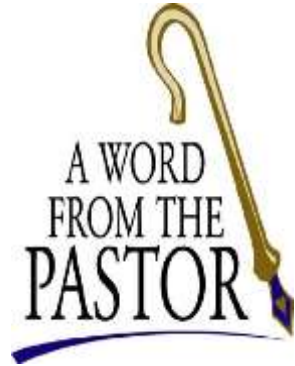
*I am thankful for...*

- November 5 WELCA Cluster Meeting
- November 6 Daylight Savings Ends
- November 12 Lefse Making at 9:00 am
- November 19 Bake and Soup Sale at 9:00 am
- November 20 Community Give Thanks Service  
2:00 pm at Cornerstone  
Bible Church
- November 27 First Day of Advent
- November 27 Philadazzle at 6:00 pm

*To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.*

*2 Thessalonians 1:2-3*

While I was still young, my mother instilled the importance of writing thank you notes. It is something Amy's mother also instilled in her and it is something we also tried to instill in our children.



I can still remember the formula that I would use in writing almost every note. It would start "Dear \_\_\_\_\_, Hi!

How are you? I am fine. Thank you for...." And from there the letter progressed. That sense of formula always got me into the letter writing format, reminding me that the letter was not simply an update about myself but also should inquire about whomever I was writing to and to provide some insight into life beyond the item for which I was giving thanks.

The Apostle Paul also had something resembling a formula when he would send a letter to a church or individual. He would always wish God's grace upon them and express gratitude for their faith. Somehow, I don't imagine that Paul's mother needed to remind him of the importance of writing letters. Paul made good use of Greco-Roman letter format to highlight his particular concerns for each church to whom he wrote, and this letter is no different.

One thing to note that this particular selection of verses highlights is Paul's consistent, near over-emphasis on their identity in God and Jesus. Verse one greets the church of the Thessalonians "in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," verse two

gives the salutation, "Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ," God is mentioned in every verse and four more times in this lesson. The greetings and prayer are entirely framed by this pairing of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, such that it seems it was Paul's intention to hammer home to this congregation their new identity, not as Roman citizens, not as Thessalonians, but as people entirely defined by their relationship with God and Jesus.

What would it be like if we first thought of ourselves and identified ourselves as children of God? Not as American or Minnesotan or Democrat or Republican but as beloved children of our heavenly Father. In seeing ourselves as Christians, I believe that, like the Thessalonians, our faith will grow and our love will increase. Thanks be to God!

*Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Geier*

## GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE

September 2022

Actual	Budget	2021 Actual
<u>General and Miscellaneous Income YTD</u>		
\$376,674.65	\$391,080.03	\$383,727.76
<u>Capital Fund YTD</u>		
\$124,353.50	\$134,250.00	\$119,207.82
<u>Operational Expenses YTD</u>		
\$461,348.45	\$513,524.11	\$447,980.92
<u>Over / (Short)</u>		
\$39,679.70	\$11,805.92	\$54,954.66

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 6	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31
November 13	Malachi 4:1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19
November 20	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43
November 27	Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

## Preschool Chatter

We are already two months into school and are adjusting well. In the month of October children enjoyed learning about the season of fall, community helpers, fire safety, and Halloween fun. Some of our highlighted activities included, fun stories, learning new songs, a visit from the Hastings fire department to teach fire safety, and hammering golf tees into pumpkins.

To celebrate Halloween, the children will dress in black and orange. It will be a fun day filled with crafts, games and trick or treating to end our Halloween parties. For snack the children will enjoy orange cheese puffs! One very exciting thing for this year's party is for the first time in two years both classes will be able to enjoy the party together and we are able to have parent volunteers back in the building. What a simple thing that is truly a blessing!



On October 29 the preschool will work with the faith formation committee to put on our first ever Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot. Families from both the preschool and the church are invited to decorate cars and hand out treats. Then children will be able to trick or treat from car to car. Families who come to trick or treat are encouraged to bring a donation for the Food 4 Kids program that sends weekend meal bags home with students in need. A win-win day for everyone! Hope to see you at this event.



November will bring even colder weather, fall conferences, and learning about what it means to be thankful.

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

### – AMONG OUR OWN –

*Congratulations to...*

**Matthew and Erin (Moes) Williams**, blessings on their October 1 marriage

**Ryan and Shari Anderson** on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 2

**Trevor and Elizabeth (Best) Leonard** on their 1<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on November 6

**Barry and Karen Jensen** on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 13

**Dan and Sue Retka** on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 24.

*Sympathies to...*

**David and Geneva Weisser** as they mourn the death of Alfred Weisser (father of David Weisser)



## Thank You!

Dear Friends,

We want to thank you all for: prayers, letters, cards, gift cards, food and friendship as we continue to move together through our life's journey. John is slowly healing from his back surgery and makes steady progress each week. Ellen is close to being done with chemo and so far the news has been encouraging. We are blessed to know that we are surrounded by a great crowd of people praying for us. There are some very rough days, but then we get a note or card letting us know that we are not alone and it renews our spirits. We both have a long way to go, but we know that God has a plan for us and we trust in that plan. Thank you all!

*Ellen and John Diischer*

## SPEAKING OF THANKS...



In addition to being very grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor and walk with you on your journeys of faith, I am especially thankful for your care for me following my injury and surgery. Your compassion, cards, and acts of kindness are comforting and humbling. I am truly blessed.

As an update, my recovery is progressing, and I anticipate a full recovery after I complete my six weeks of non-weight-bearing and six weeks of physical therapy. By my calculations I will be as good as new, (or at least as good as I was,) by Christmas. Until then I will continue to zip around on the scooter that Tracy Pavelka so generously loaned to me during my recuperation!

*Pastor Geier*

**RECEIVING COMMUNION** - As you come forward to receive holy communion, please hold the palm of your hand out for the server to place the wafer. If you would like the wine/juice server to hand you the individual cup, please tell them.

*The Worship and Music Ministry Team*

## PRAYER TEAM NEWS

I would like to announce to our congregation that I will be retiring from the Prayer Team at the end of the year. Thus, we are looking for someone to volunteer to lead the team. We have many powerful prayer warriors in our church!

We also would like to invite more people to become part of the Prayer Team. May the Holy Spirit guide you in this endeavor. It has been a huge privilege to serve our congregation! Thank you for all of your support since the inception of the Prayer Team with Pastor Ed Frederick in 2001 right after 911.

Thank you also for your support of the Third Thursday Phil-Up dinners we served. SPLC will always exemplify God's love here and in our community! To Him be the Glory!

In Christ's love,  
*Sue Retka*

## EACH SUNDAY THE ADULT FORUM



that is held following worship, will look at a different topic that is in the news, discuss several key questions that will lead us to discover Scripture verses that help shine a Biblical, Christian light on the topic, and discuss how Scripture applies to our everyday lives. Watch for the new topic to be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoebox Season is almost here! Which means we once again have the privilege to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ with millions of boys and girls around the world!



Start shopping sales now for fun toys, school supplies and personal care items to fill your Operation Christmas Child shoebox. Red and green shoeboxes will be available in the narthex on October 30. National Collection week is November 14-20.

If you have any questions, you can visit [www.samaritanpurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanpurse.org/occ) or talk with Robyn Tank or Emily Preston.

**HELLO!**



My name is Kelsey Wormley and I am excited to share that I will be directing the youth choirs at SPLC this year! I can't wait to start making music with all of the amazing children in our congregation!

My husband I have four children and live here in Hastings. We grew up in very musical households and try to instill the same love in our children. We were also both born and raised Lutheran. My background is in Elementary Education, so this position gives me the opportunity to combine my three favorite things...a love of learning, children and our Lord!

I greatly look forward to spending time making music with the children of St. Philip's and would encourage families to join our upcoming rehearsals. Thank you for sharing your kiddos with me!

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR INSTALLED**

On October 13, St. Philip's enjoyed welcoming Kelsey Wormley into its ministry staff as a Children's Choir Director. Director Wormley has announced the start of three separate age groups as separate choirs. On Wednesday nights there will be:

- 5:00 pm – Cherub Choir (ages 3-kindergarten)
- 5:30 pm – Children's Choir (grades 1-4)
- 6:00 pm – Cheer Choir (grades 5-12)

This addition to St. Philip's music emphasis is very exciting. Welcome, Kelsey!

**WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!**



It is that time of year again! Most of you know that St. Philip's Lutheran Church is a generous community of faith that supports God's work within and beyond our congregation. We invest at least 10% of our regular offerings in ministries outside St. Philip's including the ELCA, Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, Lutheran Social Services, and Young Life. In addition, at our annual meeting we vote on ministries beyond ourselves to receive 10% of our capital campaign offerings and miscellaneous offerings. One of these ministries is to serve Hastings area residents and the other is to cast a wider circle including national and international ministries.

If YOU have an idea you would like to be included on the ballot at our next annual meeting, please let the pastor, church office or a council member know. The council will then decide on the local ministries and broader ministries to be on the ballot at our December council meeting.

**FAITH STATEMENTS SHARED**



Confirmation requirement was in full play. Alivia Brown and Reese Kuglin, Jed Carlson will be confirmed in their faith at the end of October. A personally written faith statement is an expectation of their readiness to be Confirmed. Their statements were expressed before the congregation in October. The congregation showed their appreciation of their comments after each message.

## 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BAKE AND SOUP SALE

It's time to make plans for this much-anticipated event which will take place at the church on Saturday, November 19 from 9 am-12:30 pm.



Previous to the sale, there will be lefse making on Saturday, November 12 starting at 9 am and continues until completed.

There are many opportunities for being a part of this fund-raising event. Sign-up sheets are available on the kiosk. Help will be needed with soup prep the day before the sale, November 18 starting at 9 am. Many hands will also be needed the day of the sale.



The soups (carry-out only) this year will be Hamburger Vegetable, Turkey Wild Rice (gluten free,) and Ham and Bean (gluten free.)

Baked goods, canned goods and fresh produce may be brought to the church on Friday, November 18 from 9 am-

7 pm or by 8:30 am on Saturday, November 19. Items should be wrapped attractively in clear plastic wrap. Please label what each item is and include any food allergies such as nuts or if food is gluten or sugar free.

Proceeds go towards St. Philip's Lutheran Church Bible Story Books for 3-year olds, Bibles for third graders, a scholarship for a high school girl in Tanzania, Lutheran Social Service, and youth mission projects.

St. Philip's Lutheran Church has been approved for a \$250 grant from the Thrivent Action Team Project. This seed money will be used for purchasing food supplies for soup making.

Thank you to all the members of the congregation who have worked to make this a successful event.

## “EMBODY OUR MISSION” St. Philip's Stewardship Theme

*“To build and nurture a community of praise, faith and service centered on Jesus Christ.”*

Beginning in November, the St. Philip's congregation is, going to give its focus to its mission statement and give it a chance to become a part of everyone's individual lives.



All members will receive a personalized large envelope mailing. It will contain meaningful photos and information designed to make members totally confident in the support they provide to St. Philip's in terms of time and resources.

The “Embody Our Mission” emphasis will begin November 6, with Pastor Geier introducing it at the end of the worship service. Beginning on November 13, and through November 27, temple talks by members Al Carstensen, Camille Johnson Oster and Beth Fahlstrom will give additional focus to its mission.

Stewardship or Commitment Sunday will be December 4. On this day members are asked to bring their completed pledge card, with or without a stated pledge. By doing this it is evident that the invitation to give has been received, and examined and that a prayerful decision has been made.

The additional fun of the morning will be to go directly to a complimentary pancake sausage breakfast with fruit and beverages. Everyone will be asked to respond to the breakfast with a return postcard or by signing up on the kiosk.

St. Philip's Stewardship Ministry Team is served by Jeanne Evans, Gerri Lundby, Dan Strehlow, Al Todnem, Sam Willis, and Glenda Schnirring, as chair. We ask that you join us in our prayers for a meaningful stewardship emphasis lifting up St. Philip's mission.

**YOUTH PHIL BELLS** has begun. We have a few youth coming and ringing but we could use more. No experience is necessary. We will teach you. Questions? contact LuAnn Roiger or just show up on Mondays in the learning room at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

## **SOUTH AREA CLUSTER GATHERING**

### **Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization**

Join us for a wonderful morning of prayer, fellowship and learning Saturday, November 5 at 10-11:30 am at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 1404 15<sup>th</sup> Street West Hastings, MN 55033

All are welcome, including children and teens who would like to learn about the "My Very Own Bed" organization, delivering dreams to children today by providing new beds and Dream Kits.

A free will offering will be divided between the St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization and the "My Very Own Bed" organization. Coffee, juice and treats will be served.

We will also collect items needed by "Open Door". The five top items needed are white rice (1-2 lbs.), spaghetti sauce (24 oz.) or tomato sauce, canned beans: black, kidney, baked, 100% fruit juice (64 oz. or less), vegetable oil (48 oz. or less).

Questions? Contact:

Darla Kimmes at [dakimmes@embaramail.com](mailto:dakimmes@embaramail.com)  
Robin Kieffer, [rlkieffer60@gmail.com](mailto:rlkieffer60@gmail.com)

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## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

It's time to order poinsettias for decorating the sanctuary at Christmas time. The deadline is Monday, December 5. Sign up on the kiosk or call the office (651-437-6541) to order one in memory or in honor of loved ones. Choose a white, pink or red poinsettia. The cost will be \$16.00.




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## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

### **MOTION UPDATE**

In order to facilitate clearer communication at congregational meetings, the council voted this summer to follow the Synod's suggestion and their model by requiring motions during these meetings be written and submitted to be read aloud. Following a second to the motion, discussion would follow. The desire is to promote good order in conducting the business of the congregation and hopefully eliminate confusion in communication.

## **PHILADAZZLE**



What is it? That phrase has been floating around in church conversations for some time and now comes the big reveal. Philadazzle is an event for adults (significant others included) of the congregation to usher in Advent and the Holiday Season. There will be fun, inspiration, food and music. This all takes place on November 27 at 6:00-8:00 pm.

TICKETS for \$20 (cash or check) each will be on sale in the Narthex on November 6, 13, and 20. It is **IMPORTANT** to purchase tickets in advance so the committee can plan the food accordingly. The cut-off date is November 20.

For your eating pleasure, there will be beautifully displayed Charcuterie Boards laden with gourmet foods from Lock and Dam and mouthwatering cupcakes from the new Wuolett Bakery.

Following the eating time in the Fellowship Hall we will adjourn to the Sanctuary where the Eagan Men's Chorus will dazzle us with a performance. Our own Raul Jackson is a member of this group. At the conclusion of the concert we will join in singing the first verse of "Silent Night" and praying the Lord's Prayer. May we be inspired to go forward and do the Lord's work

We are thankful for the youth of the congregation who will be our servers for the evening. Let's show our appreciation by providing them with a monetary contribution.

The committee members are excited about this first-time-ever event and look forward to welcoming you there.

## **THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY**

### **EVENT**

**Give Thanks Service**

Led by Pete Like

Sunday, November 20 from 2-4 pm

Cornerstone Bible Church,  
735 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Hastings

## From the September 19, 2022 issue of "News and Events" from the Saint Paul Area Synod...

*Early this year, the synod created a Gleaning From the Harvest grant program for exploration and experimentation in the following areas: evangelism, racial justice, "we never did that before" and worship training and technology. Grants totaling \$113,000 were awarded to 19 ministries. Glenda Schnirring provided this summary from grant recipient St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Hastings:*

As January 2022 began, the ministry committees of St. Philip's, Hastings, were alerted to a grant opportunity from the Saint Paul Area Synod. It was like a spring breeze in the dead of winter. What a time to have a grant opportunity! Reading through the ideas we spotted "public art" and "diversity." It fit the very issues we were living in. We knew we could give rise and awareness to the value of public art and couple it with the city's history and a very current need that had emerged through a contentious school board election that had given life to the issue of living in a diverse community.

The people of St. Philip's knew professional artist Paul Oman, who had done a live painting at its worship service. A grant idea had been born! By the next day Paul Oman was contacted. The title of the grant would be "Drawn to the River." The original painting would happen on the shores of the mighty Mississippi under the canopy of the city's beautiful riverside pavilion in a Minnesota river town known as Hastings. The painting would be 5' x 6', focusing on the city's history, some landmarks, and its story about cultures living on its shores before Hastings' founding.

A date for "Drawn to the River" was set for July 18. Three months prior to the event, Paul Oman prepared himself to do the painting by coming to Hastings, studying its past, visiting a local historian, taking photographs and doing site visits as to where the painting would best reside. Hastings Family Service, a local people-helping agency, agreed to welcome its placement. This decision became an increasingly poignant one, as people are received and provided assistance in the basics of life itself.

July 18 was a beautiful summer evening. Making the event known to the community had been an important component of this unique program. St. Philip's wanted a crowd. Public posters, radio interviews, Public TV and Chamber of Commerce calendars, church bulletin boards, along with Hastings City Hall's communication department helped greatly in getting this unique event on a Tuesday evening at 6 pm "down on the river" well attended.

The event was described as "art unfolding before one's eyes," supported with spoken messages and music to give the one-hour program all the flair it deserved. Four

speakers gave five-minute messages, interspersed with music designed with ethnic diversification. The promise had been that the audience would watch the artist swish his paint brush to the rhythm of the river's waves lapping at the shore, and it all came true.

The painting's gradual development into a canvas portraying all that had been promised held the audience of 170 in fixed attention. Seeing art develop like this noticeably wrapped the audience in a special kind of appreciation. They saw beauty, but more importantly, they were learning about Hastings' early occupants, namely the Dakota Sioux, and about Brown's Chapel, a house of worship for the city's people of color, which had been destroyed by arson without due investigation in the early 1900s.

The speakers spelled out four points which supported the purpose of the grant's objective:

1. Public art
2. Hastings' historical past with the Dakota Sioux
3. Brown's Chapel
4. The Hastings-Prescott Area Arts Council, a board of citizens founded to further the city's public art

"Drawn to the River" met its objectives at a time when community relationships had become relatively fractured and its happiness quotient bruised. Art can be a medium for healing, for distracting people from their burdens. This is what made "Drawn to the River" so timely and so well received. When art is now the topic for city decision makers, the walls of question will have been lowered. Future efforts for more works of art in public places are likely to have an easier time being approved. As a congregation, St. Philip's discovered a way to help bring a joyful event into its community's midst. In whatever way any congregation can do this is a journey worth taking.

Two quotes worthy of mention: The first is from a retired teacher, who said, "I'm ready to take this painting into classrooms

and teach from it to Hastings' children." A visitor to Hastings Family Service, which is where the painting hangs, said, "I watched the entire program on Hastings' Community TV site, and had to come and see it in person."





## KEEPING CONNECTED



**Greetings from Jay and Becky Raimann.** We were married in September, 1973 in Fargo, North Dakota. (If you're counting that will be 50 years next year!) Ellen Diischer was our maid of honor and sang at our wedding. Jay started a job as a medical technologist at Regina Hospital that fall and we joined SPLC shortly after moving to Hastings. This was the only church we visited, having both come from the old ALC/ELC synods. Our three children were baptized and confirmed here. Becky taught Sunday school for the ten years our children were enrolled. Over the years we have been active in choir, church council, as worship coordinators and other worship leader positions.

Jay grew up on a farm near Pemberton, Minnesota. He is a graduate of Waldorf CC in Iowa, attained a BA in Biology and Medical Technology at Concordia College of Moorhead, and has an MBA with a concentration in Health Care from St. Thomas U. He was in charge of the laboratory at Regina for many years and then worked in management there before retiring. He then did some work in the travel business, which he retired from shortly after Becky retired.

Becky grew up in Volga, South Dakota; moved to Robbinsdale, Minnesota at the age of 16 and graduated from there. She went on to the U of M where she attained a BA in Music and Mathematics Education, and a MA and Educational Specialist in Mathematics. She was active in the U of M band program and is forever a Gopher fan. She taught mathematics at Inver Hills Community College for 30 years, and has been retired for the past nine years.

Since retirement we have done quite a bit of world travel, with two more trips to Europe scheduled in 2023. Then we hope to explore the lower 48. We like to spend time fishing on Gull Lake in the Brainerd

area during the summer where our son and his family live and have a cabin. Our daughters and their children live in Rosemount. We spend as much time as we can with our children and five grandchildren. From late January to early March, we spend time in Florida.

It has been a joy to watch SPLC grow and are looking forward to see what God has in store for us.

**Hello! It's Carolyn Schaar here.** I was baptized, confirmed and married just down the street at St. John's Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Synod). College and marriage took me out of Hastings, but when I returned in the mid-1980s I joined St. Philip's (ELCA synod). I've always loved being Lutheran. The whole Saved By Grace thing is so soothing. And I



*Carolyn with her daughter Darcy enjoying a family celebration at the Lock and Dam Eatery*

come by being Lutheran naturally as my Great Great Grandfather Nicholas Volkert emigrated from Nuremberg, Germany in 1847 and served as a Lutheran minister (Missouri Synod). All these different synods! It's nice to have options.

My two children were baptized at Ascension Lutheran Church in Medford, Oregon, where I served as church secretary prior to motherhood. However, my first job—not counting feeding calves—was as a corn detasseler for DeKalb Seed. Later, while attending the University of Minnesota, work-study jobs included washing skunk skulls for the Touch-N-See Room in the Bell Museum of Natural History. I also worked for the Entomology Department on the St. Paul campus which sent me off to its research farm in Grand Rapids to count aphids on potato plants.

In the early 1970s my husband was drafted and just before being shipped off to Vietnam he was diverted to Okinawa, Japan—prayers answered, do you suppose?—where he worked as an MP (military police) for the Army. I joined him there and managed to nail down a job at an English-language newspaper as the “inch girl” in the advertising department. Later

I was promoted to society page editor (overly prestigious title) for the Morning Star newspaper.

I've worked in a print shop and a picture framing shop, a library and a grocery, an insurance company and a polling booth. My last job was as a graphic designer for the State of Minnesota. After all these eclectic positions, I retired in 2015.

For a number of years, I was active in Special Olympics, coaching both bowling and equestrian. To be a coach you don't need to be proficient in the sport, you just need to be able to do the paper work.

Because many of you—especially Pat Kohn and Raul Jackson—ask about my daughters, here's an update on them: Both live in South Washington County. Darcy Rath lives in a group home just over the bridge and attends Chrestomathy, a day program and employment support service for adults with intellectual disabilities. She has a part-time job washing dishes at a retirement home. Her older sister Natalia "Tali" Rath Keene works as a lawyer in downtown St. Paul, that is, when she's not off on some business trip somewhere else in the country. She and her husband Nick live on the Keene family farm. (It probably will surprise no one that Nick also has a full-time job off the farm in Hastings.) They have two very active boys, Jacob (12) and Caden (10). Unless I make it to their ball games, I might not see those grandsons at all!

After joining of St. Philip's, I became involved with adult education along with Lew Linde (the St. Philip's member who helped start Hastings Family Service). In 1992 during Market Place 29 A.D., I did some face painting. For the past few years I've enjoyed helping with our garage sales, bake sales, and Do Day quilt making.

I'm so grateful for my brothers and sister in Christ. When I lost my parents a year ago, you were there with love and support. And while I've had some health problems recently, your prayers and home visits, along with medical advancements, have restored me. For that I thank you.

I graduated Hasting High School (go Raiders!) in 1967. At the time I chummed with Sharon Skalrud. If she told me—probably not—I probably wasn't listening anyway, because I don't remember, but her parents were working with others to establish a new church in town: St. Philip's Lutheran. I'm very glad they did!

**Hi! We are Dennis and Tricia Kohn.** Our lives didn't get connected until we were both in our twenties!

I was born in Red Wing, Minnesota, and raised on farms in Zumbro Falls, and Vasa with four brothers. I was confirmed at Vasa Lutheran, and attended Vasa elementary from 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. That elementary school now is the Vasa church's school and fellowship hall! I graduated from Red Wing high school, then



Minneapolis vo-tech in data processing (graduating in 1968). While going to school there, I got a job working for Northwestern National Bank, in their data processing department, which fit well with my education (starting in 1967). After graduation, I started looking for military opportunities (Vietnam war was in full swing!), and the US Navy agreed to a guaranteed Data Processing position if I could pass their data processing test (I passed!). I entered NAVY boot camp in April of 1969, and got orders to FICPac (Fleet Intelligence Center, Pacific), located in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Tricia was born in Detroit, Michigan, and raised with one sister (Nancy). She attended various elementary schools in southern Michigan and Indiana, attending and graduating high school in Richmond, Michigan. Due to her parent's health issues, Tricia started working various jobs after graduation in clerical, secretarial, and receptionist fields, while still assisting her parents through their health issues.

In 1971, Tricia's sister (who was married to a sailor in Hawaii), introduced her to a friend (Dennis). After months of letter writing, I was released from naval service, and Tricia and I started dating in person (I'd fly to Michigan). I convinced her to move to Minnesota, and got her a job (where I worked) at Norwest bank. We were married in 1974, and moved to Hastings that same year, and also joined St. Philip's. I retired from Wells Fargo in 2015 after almost 48 years. Tricia had several jobs (interspersed with raising our children) including PSA, sick child home care, local office receptionist work). Tricia has enjoyed singing, walking, knitting, bowling. She has

led the MOW program for many years, and sent out prayer postcards, but relinquished so we can travel.

Dennis has enjoyed bowling, hunting, house projects (sometimes too many! Lol), MOW driving, giving rides to appointments for St. Philip's members as I am able, and helping people as I am able.

We enjoy traveling and visiting relatives in our RV, and hosting the "500" card club!

We have 3 wonderful children:

- \* Farrah (Mathew) with 4 grandchildren, living in Chicago.
- \* Casey (Kate) with 2 grandsons, living in South St. Paul.
- \* Alyssa, living in Minneapolis.

We enjoy our St. Philip's family, and attend regularly. See you in church and remember "God Loves You"!

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Your Adult Spiritual Growth Committee has an exciting opportunity to offer a course beginning in January on finding your financial peace. Ideal for young families but open to all, Financial Peace University is a nine-lesson course that teaches you how to save for emergencies, pay off debt fast, spend wisely and invest for your future using common sense, biblical principles that work. FPU alum Sam Willis has graciously agreed to help coordinate and co-lead the course. Each lesson is about 60 minutes. While there is a nominal fee for materials, we may be able to offset the cost for those in need. In order to make this opportunity successful, we need to know how many in our congregation are interested and what days and times would afford the best opportunity for the most people. Options are: Sunday Adult Forum hour, 10:30-11:30 am; Wednesday evenings at 6 or 6:30 pm or some other time; Saturday mornings at 9 or 10 am or some other time; or Sunday afternoons.



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If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact your ASG team, Jennie Thomas or Doug Schultz, with your preferences.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH DISCUSSION

Nineteen St. Philip's members gathered on October 13, for the purpose of doing round table brainstorming on how St. Philip's could enter into specific objectives of activity in the area of Social Justice. A steering committee volunteered to bring forth one or more ideas as a start in becoming more involved to the extent that St. Philip's would be able to accomplish.

*Pictured is Chad Carda reporting from his small group table discussion.*



## TREE UPDATE

On the east lawn coming in from Pleasant, is a New Harmony Elm which will grow to 50 feet at maturity with bright yellow foliage in the fall. There are five different tree varieties among those recently planted.



## ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

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## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541

[www.splchastings.org](http://www.splchastings.org)

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### 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](http://www.splchastings.org),

YouTube and Facebook)

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