

# The Philippian

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

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

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

April 2023



He is Risen!  
Alleluia!

## Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 2  
9:30 am

Maundy Thursday  
First Communion  
April 6  
7:00 pm

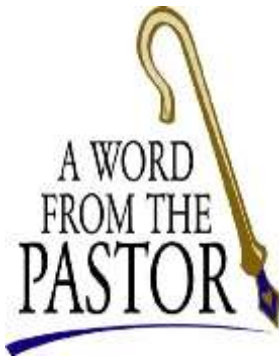
Good Friday, April 7  
7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9  
8:30 and 10:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt  
and Other Fun Activities  
9:30 am

- 1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
- 21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Psalm 118:1, 21-24 for Easter Sunday*



What do you say when someone does something nice for you? What do you do to demonstrate your appreciation concerning an act of compassion and kindness? You do and you say what your parents taught you when you were very small! You say thank you. You appreciate the generosity shown to you.

Throughout the Scriptures, we see how God gives life to His people. God's goodness is seen in creation, making each one of us unique and valuable. God's awesome mercy is recognized in His act of redemption - of purchasing us from our sins through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. God's grace is again clearly observed as the Holy Spirit calls us to faith and keeps us close to God.

How do we respond to the eternal goodness of God? **We give thanks!** In all things and in everything, we give thanks to God. We give thanks through our prayer life, in our worship life together, in our vocations during the week. Each day we remember all that God has done, still does, and promises to do in the future.

Most of all we give thanks for Jesus. It is through Jesus Christ that God has answered all our prayers and has become our salvation. It is Jesus Christ who is the stone the builders rejected that has become the chief cornerstone of our faith. It is through the life and crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and the free gift of faith that we have eternal life with our God!

As we gather as forgiven and redeemed sinners on Easter morning we will lift up our voices in

proclamation, "Christ is risen!" **"He is risen, indeed!"** It is our God who raised Jesus from the dead. It is God who raises us to new life, promises victory over death and the grave. It is God who gives us each and every day of life to live and serve and love in Jesus' name.

It is my sincere hope that each of you will be able to be a part of the services of Holy Week and for Easter Sunday. Our Lenten journey this year is coming to a triumphant climax, and it will be through our shared worship experiences that together we will again witness that God's steadfast love endures forever.

*Your Servant in Christ,*

*Pastor Geier*

---

## Preschool Chatter

What a crazy winter we have had. We have had all types of weather affecting our teaching days this year including big snows as well as a rain storm that created an icy land that looked like Elsa took over. Our children are definitely ready for some spring weather and so are we as staff!

For the month of March, we had some really fun themes that included Pete the Cat books, Pizza, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, and the start of the Easter story. Highlights this month for our students included Pete's Boogie dance party, making and eating their own pizzas, and letter hunt games to name a few. We also had a visit from Dakota Electric to teach us about power line safety. It is fun to be able to get these visitors back into school.

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is now in full swing. If you have any friends, family, or neighbors looking for preschool next fall, please share our information with them. They can email us at [preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org) with any questions or follow us on Facebook @StPhilipsPreschoolHastings. Also, as the snow starts to melts we are looking for people willing to display our small staked yard signs out in their yards to help us with advertising. If you live in a high traffic area and are interested, please let us know. As always, thanks for you continued prayers and support.

*Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein  
Preschool Co-Directors*

**- AMONG OUR OWN -**

*Congratulations to...*

**Nora Marie Nye** (daughter of John and Katie Nye) blessings on her March 5 baptism

**Amelia Anne Warnecke** (daughter of Derrick and Sammi Warnecke) born March 9

**Autumn James Koenig** (daughter of James and Savannah Koenig) born March 10

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

**Ken and Cheryl Albold** on their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 6

**Neil and Jan Misegades** on their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 6

**Ron and Cindy Toppin** on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 7

**Dick and Solveig Dirks** on their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 13

**Loren and Valerie Mollet** on their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 30

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to Camille Nelson and Judy Werner for all the help in organizing the Faith Formation closet. It was a huge but successful undertaking. Thank you so much.

*Becky Kaphing and Katie Thomas  
Faith Formation Ministry Team*

A special thank you to all the gals and a guy, who came and cleaned the kitchen and kitchenette in February. It looks great and pleasing to work in.

*Vonnie Olson*

Thank you to all congregation members and preschool families who have donated so far to the March Food Drive to support Hastings Family Service. We will be collecting through March 31. Every dollar and pound of food donated in March will be proportionately matched by MN FoodShare.



**GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE**

February 2023

Actual	Budget	2022 Actual
<u>General and Miscellaneous Income YTD</u>		
\$84,835.95	\$94,725.04	\$95,241.39
<u>Capital Fund YTD</u>		
\$31,638.00	\$31,666.66	\$28,647.00
<u>Operational Expenses YTD</u>		
\$105,704.08	\$118,299.03	\$111,417.85
<u>Over / (Short)</u>		
\$10,769.87	\$8,092.67	\$12,470.54

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

April 2	Matthew 21:1-11 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 27:11-26
April 9	Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10
April 16	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
April 23	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35
April 30	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

**Holy Week Worship Schedule**

Palm Sunday April 2  
at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6  
7 pm

Good Friday, April 7  
7 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9  
8:30 and 10:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt and Other Fun  
Activities at 9:30 am



## LET'S TALK ABOUT CELEBRATING FIRST COMMUNION!

Is your child asking about Holy Communion? Often children receive their first communion sometime between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but there is not a set age.



Every person grows in faith in different ways and at St. Philip's, parents take an active role in discerning when it would be best for their children to participate in this part of our life together.

There will be two classes for children and their parents on March 25 and April 1 from 9:00-11:00 am. During these times Pastor Geier will lead families in talking about the gift of Holy Communion and its place in our faith life. These classes are designed to be family time for all ages.

- Saturday, March 25, 9:00-11:00 am: Introduction – "A Place for You!"
- Saturday, April 1, 9:00-11:00 am: Closing and Banners
- Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Worship with celebration of first communion

If you would like for your child or children to start receiving the sacrament but are able to participate in only one (or none) of the sessions, or will be unable to worship on Maundy Thursday, let me know so that we can make things work. If you have any other questions or concerns or would like to sign up for classes, please contact Pastor Geier at the church office.

---

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP LEADERS

St. Philip's offers a number of worship opportunities during Holy Week – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and two services on Easter. Will you be in town for these services? The Worship and Music Committee welcomes volunteers to serve as worship leaders (ushers, lectors, greeters, and communion servers). Please stop by the kiosk to sign up or contact Lori Best at 763-807-3667 (call or text) or via email ([loribest1@gmail.com](mailto:loribest1@gmail.com)).

## EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY!



If you would like to donate candy for this year's Easter Egg Hunt, there will be a table outside the office for you to drop off individually wrapped Easter candy that will fit in a plastic Easter Egg. Deadline to donate is Sunday, April 2.

---

## EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

Easter worship services will be at 8:30 and 10:30 am on Sunday, April 9.

In order to make everyone welcome and comfortable for Easter worship, all seating in the sanctuary will be open with no restrictions at the 8:30 am service. The 10:30 am service will have social distance seating available in the wing sections, as has been done in the past. The green taped areas are for safe seating with the yellow taped areas restricted with no seating.



## ADULT FORUMS FOR APRIL

On April 2 we will be concluding our series on the Prayer of Good Courage. Please join us that day even if you have not been to any of the other sessions. Each session is very much able to stand on its own.

No Adult Forum for Easter. Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with all ages at any of St. Philips' festival worship services.

Starting April 16, join us for another month of "The Wired Word," where each Sunday we will use something from recent national or international news to explore the topic from a faith perspective. Check the Sunday bulletin that comes to you by email each Friday for that week's topic. We had lively and useful discussions with this format last fall and expect the same for this final series of our program year.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Learning Room after the Sunday service for these interesting discussions.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

July 17-20  
9 am-12 pm

Save the date for this year's exciting Food Truck Party. Along with our student participants we also need about 50 teen and youth leaders to put on this event. Be sure to get these dates on your summer calendar and reach out to Becky Kaphing with any questions.



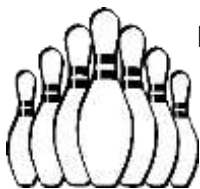
## TIME AND TALENT

Time and Talent Forms (the yellow one that came in your mail) have been coming in steadily. Thank you for each one of them. If you have lost your form or forgot it today, grab a new one on the Welcome Center and complete it before leaving. Put it in the secure lock box by the office or just leave it at the Welcome Center. Try to lend a hand delivering ministry in whatever way you're able. It's important and you are needed.

*Stewardship Ministry Team*

## LADIES NIGHT OUT IS RETURNING THIS SUMMER!

**Let's Go Bowling!**



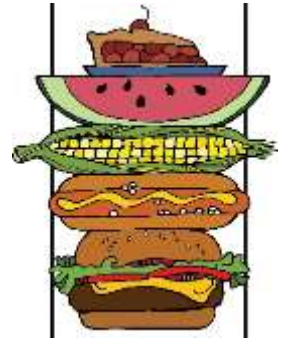
Dust off your bowling ball, line up some friends or relatives as we get ready for a night of food, fellowship and frames! Aren't interested in bowling? No problem! Just come for a fun night out as we'll have food and drinks for all. Watch newsletters and bulletins for more information in the coming weeks. Our tentative date is the evening of June 28.

*Fellowship Ministry*

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed Monday, April 10 following the busy Easter week.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

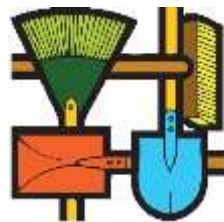
**Food Sorting and Sign Up Genius Tips** - Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with food sorting at Hastings Family Service. Each Monday HFS receives food rescue produce, baked goods and meat from Cub and Coborn's to pass on to others in the community. The sign-up for future Mondays will come out around the 25th of each month. You will receive an email from the church about Sign Up Genius. You should ignore the pop-ups and there is no need for a password or credit card information. If you are having trouble signing up, contact Cindy or Ron Toppin at 651-353-7143 and they can sign you up.



When you come to HFS, enter through the Donation Door of HFS located on Second Street across from the post office; press the doorbell on the left, if the door is locked.

### May Park Clean Up (A great service opportunity for families!)

We have signed up to be part of the Hastings Park Cleanup effort. We have been assigned Roadside Park on Highway 55. We can do this any day in May that we choose. If you have a date that your family would prefer, send an email to [ctoppin409@gmail.com](mailto:ctoppin409@gmail.com).



## A RECENT VISIT

Patty Todnem and Deb Carlson, pictured with Helen Brudvig (center) whom they visited at Benedictine Senior Living, 1008 1st Street West, #604, Hastings. Helen is doing well and chooses to participate in most activities at her new address. St. Philip's extends its warmest greeting and blessing to Helen.



## KEEPING CONNECTED

Our story... Bernardo and I met in 1992 working together in a restaurant in San Antonio, Texas. It was love at first sight. We were married within seven months and this August will celebrate 31 years of



mariage. We were pretty young so we waited a couple years before we started our family. Alex our oldest came December of 1994 and within two years we had Christina. We knew with a young family we wanted and needed family so we moved back to Minnesota in April of 1999. We chose Hastings because I had family here. My aunt and uncle were members of St. Philip's and so we decided to visit the church. We really fell in love with the St. Philip's family rather quickly. Our children have gone to Sunday school here, retreats and mission trips.

Back in November of 2006 we had a terrible house fire and lost everything. Unfortunately, we didn't have renter's insurance so we were left with nothing. Well a phone call was made and our church had donations waiting for us at my aunt's house that night. The next couple weeks the church took donations and then Thrivent matched a portion of it and gave us over \$6,000. We had been members for a little of 6 years but you would've thought we had been members since the beginning. I can honestly say between St. Philip's, Intek Plastics (where Bernardo use to work) and our school we made it past the fire and were able to rebuild. This type of generosity is never forgotten.

In 2014 we decided to open a restaurant in downtown Hastings. We have definitely had our ups and downs in our business but we are so proud to be a part of this community. In 2020 when COVID hit we decided it was time to pay it forward. Bernardo and myself fed lunches to nearly 4,500 kids out our back door. But it wasn't on our own, we had donations of milk, cookies, chips and money. Again this is the kind of community we are glad to be a part of. Bella will be graduating this summer and she will be the third through our great school system. Tony has a little over three years left of school.

We aren't sure where life will take us after all our children are out of the house but I can say we have been blessed this far!

*Bernardo, Jennifer, Alexander, Christina, Isabella and Antonio Melecio*

---

## GARAGE AND PLANT SALE PLANNING MEETING

The first planning meeting for St. Philip's 2023 Garage and Plant Sale is April 20, at 6:30 pm. This meeting has attracted 40 or more people who are ready to give time and energy to this important annual event.



St. Philip's' huge garage and plant sale is designed to attract visitors from the greater Hastings area and beyond. The sale has a sound reputation as a fairly priced and beautifully displayed array of goods that people enjoy coming to see and purchase. This first meeting is for anyone interested in becoming more connected to the sale. Department leaders are in place already; new names would act to support the department of their choice. Come and join the fun on April 20, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Questions may be directed to Sale Coordinator, Deborah Dreher, at [deborahdreh@aol.com](mailto:deborahdreh@aol.com).

---

## SPRING KITCHEN CLEANING

At the end of February, a volunteer team able to make the date, showed up to clean St. Philip's kitchen. Patty Todnem cleaned the large gas stove, Pam Hoffman concentrated in the WELCA closet, Gerri Holmseth did cabinets inside and out, Mary Rock did sinks, and

Lois Twedt did high cupboards and more. Others on hand were Glenda Schnirring who did the refrigerator, Kathy Stockman, utensil drawers and Camille and Darryl Nelson and Deborah Dreher gave assistance where needed.



### SUNDAY MORNING LIFE



On a lovely Sunday in February, Nora Marie Nye was welcomed into St. Philip's church family. It's tradition that Pastor Geier introduces the newly baptized member to the congregation with a walk through the sanctuary.



Having a play area situated next to the sanctuary makes it possible to take a busy toddler out for a break and still hear the activity going on in the service. Laura Zabel found that convenience working well with her grandson.



Sam Robertson is found keeping his new daughter comfortable during a worship service. Her baptism will happen soon. Children are overwhelmingly welcomed at all worship services.

### LENTEN WEDNESDAY EVENING LIFE



Every Lenten Wednesday evening, the Holden Evening Prayer is sung by various song leaders with the congregation doing responsive verses. Song leaders Julia Ronning and Jared Hanson led the service in early March. Also supporting the beauty of the service most Wednesdays are Kurt Zabel and Dave Tank on guitar. Pastor Geier has a prepared message on the word, "ACTS" in the context of praying.



During Lent, one can find an adult sitting with a young person from grade 7 through 9 in the role as their mentor. For five sessions a mentor guides their young person through a lesson plus builds what is hoped is a lasting relationship with that young person as they work through their confirmation years. The sessions are often held on Wednesday nights, followed by a worship service which captures the chapters of their lesson.



**ST. PHILIP'S STAFF**

Gregory Geier, Pastor

[pastorgeier@splchastings.org](mailto:pastorgeier@splchastings.org)

Noreen Swanson, Organist

[swansonhastings@centurylink.net](mailto:swansonhastings@centurylink.net)

Ellen Diischer, Coordinator of Worship Planning

[ellend@splchastings.org](mailto:ellend@splchastings.org)

LuAnn Roiger, Handbell Choir Director

[lriger58@gmail.com](mailto:lriger58@gmail.com)

Kelsey Wormley, Children's Choir Director

[kelseyw@splchastings.org](mailto:kelseyw@splchastings.org)

Christine Rydel, Business Manager

[christiner@splchastings.org](mailto:christiner@splchastings.org)

John Diischer, Sound Board Technician

[johnd@splchastings.org](mailto:johnd@splchastings.org)

Lista Klocow, Office Manager

[listak@splchastings.org](mailto:listak@splchastings.org)

Becky Kaphing, Preschool Co-Director

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

Lorelei Rein, Preschool Co-Director

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

Rachel Moritz, Assistant Teacher

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

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

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541

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

YouTube and Facebook)

**Holy Week Worship Services:**

In Person and Livestream Worship

Palm Sunday, April 2 at 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9 at 8:30 and 10:30 am

affix label here

TIME DATED MATERIAL

\*\*Return Service Requested

Hastings, MN 55033

1401 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Hastings, MN 55033

Permit #148

PAID

U.S. Postage

Non-Profit Organization