

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



Season of Lent

February 2024

Sunday, February 4

Annual Meeting and Potluck
10:45 am

Wednesday, February 14

Lenten Mentor Orientation
6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday Worship Service
7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 20

Preschool Registration Open to
SPLC Members and Preschool Families
8:00 am

Wednesday, February 21

Lenten Worship "I Am the Bread of Life"
7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 27

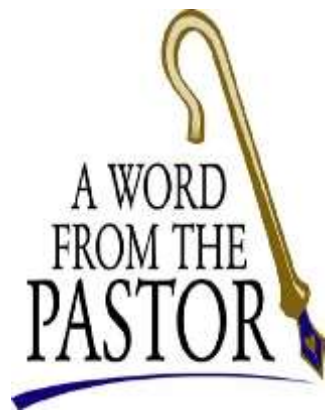
Preschool Registration Open to Community
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 28

Lenten Worship "I Am the Light of the World"
7:00 pm

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 The LORD is the everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.
 He does not faint or grow weary;
 his understanding is unsearchable.
 He gives power to the faint,
 and strengthens the powerless.
 Even youths will faint and be weary,
 and the young will fall exhausted;
 but those who wait for the LORD
 shall renew their strength,
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
 they shall run and not be weary,
 they shall walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:28-31



A common slogan found in gyms, weight rooms, athletic t-shirts, and banners is, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." This motto is used to motivate those who read it to push themselves to their very limits. However, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a time when even the tough might not be able to go any

further, a time when "Even youths will faint and be weary and the young will fall exhausted."

But through his prophet, God assures us here that even when the youngest and the strongest and the toughest can neither keep going or get going, then those who trust in God will receive new strength from him.

Our almighty God's strength is endless. God never faints or grows weary. Our Lord not only has strength, but also gives strength. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. He renews the strength of those who trust in him. God will always provide today's strength for today's challenges. We can cope with whatever today brings because we know that our God is with us and will strengthen us for today's journey.

The athletic coach tells his or her team to reach down into themselves for reserves of strength and energy. Ultimately though, our strength will run out and we will become weary if we depend only on ourselves. The prophet Isaiah encourages us to instead rely on the Lord for a supply of his strength. It is our almighty God who not only has strength to spare but has it to share. May each of you know the power of our Lord's strength as he sustains you now and forever.

*Your Servant in Christ,
 Pastor Geier*

– Among Our Own –

Congratulations to...

- Kyle Kreuser** named Educator of the Year for ISD #200
- Denny and Tricia Kohn** on their 50th wedding anniversary on February 2
- Tony and Carole Sieben** on their 55th wedding anniversary on February 8
- Jameson Joel Ling** (son of Thomas and Michelle Ling) blessings on his baptism

Sympathies to...

- Terry Kochendorfer and family** as they mourn the death of his mother Dolores Kochendorfer
- Deb Frandrup and family** as they mourn the death of her mother Marilyn Youngmark

Giving and Expense Update

GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE		
	2023	2022
December 2023 YTD Giving		
	\$684,914.85	\$707,601.57
December 2023 YTD Expenses		
	\$567,614.67	\$610,699.42
Net		
	\$117,600.18	\$ 96,902.15

Preschool Chatter

This school year sure is flying by quickly. The students were very happy to return from Christmas break and get back to some normal scheduling! The month of January definitely started off as an odd one as far as weather goes. No snow to kick off January made for weird outside play times but we made the best of it with animal running games, red rover, and following the leader. Our themes for the month were penguins, dinosaurs, snowmen, and Jan Brett stories. We really enjoyed playing different penguin games, building toilet paper tube dinosaurs, throwing indoor snowballs, and listening/recreating Jan Brett stories.

As most of you have probably heard by now, we have decided to make our Raise Right fundraiser an ongoing one. Anyone interested in ordering cards can place the order in our mailbox by the third Sunday of every month. Remember that these cards are not just for gifts but can also be used on your everyday purchases. Money you are already spending anyway can benefit our school as well! Forms and a binder with all available retailers and the percentages they give to the preschool can be found on the welcome center. Please reach out to us or Dolores Pemble with any questions.

Just a reminder that registration for the 2024-25 school year will begin for current preschool families as well as church members on February 20 at 8:00 am. Forms will be available on the welcome center or on our website starting Sunday, February 18. If you know someone who is not a member, but would like to join our preschool family next fall please invite them to start dropping off registrations on the evening of February 27 between 5:30-6:30 pm or any time after that day. Word of mouth really is our best advertisement so please share our program as much as possible. Families are always welcome to call or email us to set up private tours. Our email is preschool@splchastings.org and our phone number is 651-437-6541.

Our 2024-25 preschool sessions run from 9 am-noon with the option of attending two days (Tuesday and Thursday), three days (Monday/Wednesday/Friday), or all five days (MTWTF) each week. Feel free to follow us on Facebook at St Philip's Preschool for more information as the registration time gets closer!

*Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors*

Thank You...

Thank you to the moving crew that moved us into our apartment at Park Ridge. We appreciate your willingness to assist us in this time when we were unable to do it for ourselves. We are blessed to have St. Philip's as our church family.

John and Ellen Diischer

Thank You for Your Returned Stewardship Response Card. One hundred households returned a 2024 response card indicating their giving plan for the year ahead. While the Stewardship Ministry Team would prefer to see many more cards returned, it is thankful for those which were.

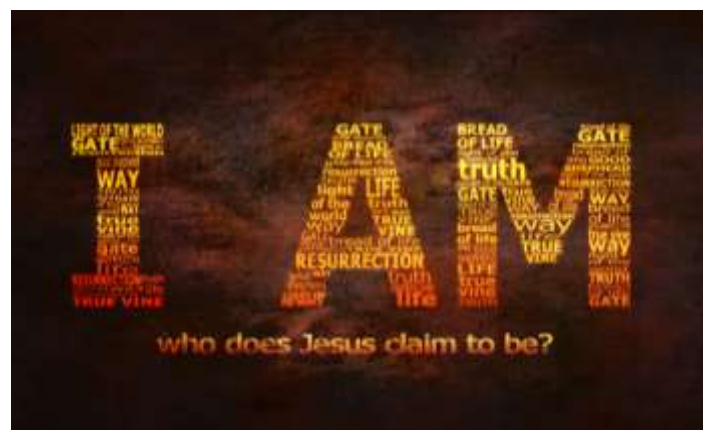
Returning a card is an indication that the important stewardship mailing was opened and examined by the recipient. The mailing is designed to reflect on the wonders of the time and talents given by members through the year and it provides candid information on the needs of St. Philip's General and Capital Funds. Thank you again for your responses.

The Stewardship Ministry Team

Lent Begins February 14 with Ash Wednesday

As we begin our Lenten journey to the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter many faithful Christians add the discipline of worshipping together on Wednesdays as well as Sundays. Join your family of faith every Wednesday at 7:00 pm starting on February 14, Ash Wednesday. Then beginning on February 21 we will continue our tradition of using the Holden Evening Prayer Service.

This year we will be reflecting on the "I am" statements of Jesus found in the gospel of John. Let's explore together who Jesus claims to be for us!



Annual Meeting

St. Philip's annual business meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4 at 10:45 am. Annual Reports are available on the welcome center.

- A budget forum will be held Sunday, January 28 following worship. There will be a revenue and spending plan presentation and open comments/questions on details of the spending plan. This meeting will be held for discussion purposes only; no official business will be transacted.
- We will have child care available during the annual meeting. To be sure we are staffed for the needs of the congregation please email Becky Kaphing at beckyk@splchastings.org no later than January 29.
- In order to facilitate clearer communication at congregational meetings we will be requiring motions to 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.
- We will still need a quorum to complete these important matters and we anticipate that everything should take less than an hour, so please plan on participating. Like in previous years we will keep record of all those participating.
- You may attend the meeting via Zoom. The link can be found at www.splchastings.org on the SPLC EVENTS tab. Go to February 4 and click on the Annual Meeting and Potluck event and the link will be in there. OR type in the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85849404447>.
- You will note that there are green and red pieces of paper that should provide enough materials for two voting members per household. If there are more than two voting members, any green or red paper will work or a paper with "YES" or "NO" written in large letters will suffice.

Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Philip's will be hosting a blood drive with the Red Cross on Thursday, March 14 from 12-6 pm. Please sign up to donate or help out by greeting donors at www.redcrossblood.org. Please direct any questions to Katy Lindberg 651-341-2411 Klindberg@farmersagent.com

Annual Meeting Potluck

We are looking forward to our potluck after the annual meeting on February 4. Feel free to bring a favorite dish to share. It doesn't need to be according to the suggested guidelines or homemade. Last names beginning with...

A-I Dessert J-R Main Dish S-Z Salad.

Don't have time to get something to bring? That's ok, come anyway! There's always plenty! Fellowship and food – what could be more Lutheran?!

Items can be dropped off at the kitchen before service and the Fellowship Team will do the rest! Please be sure to put your name on containers.

Hope to see you there!
Camille Nelson, fellowship chair

The Simply Giving Program...

- is a program which transfers your St. Philip's giving as you direct
- is a "no fee" benefit to both church and donor
- provides an annual even cash flow to St. Philip's
- ensures the member that his/her gift is received systematically
- Giving an offering is part of one's worship experience. If one chooses, additional giving may be done during the worship service. Also, Simply Giving participants may place a "pew card" in the offering plate if they choose.
- Changes on one's Simply Giving plan may be changed at any time by using the authorization form found behind the Welcome Center.

Consider SIMPLY GIVING by taking an authorization form home for review. If this plan works for you, remit a completed form and its attachment to the church's security box.

Easter Garden

We will have tulips, mums and begonias in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday to enhance our worship in celebration of Christ's resurrection. The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk. Cost is \$15 for tulips and begonias and \$20 for mums. Please put your donation in the envelope provided or note "Easter Flowers" on the memo line of your check and drop in the offering plate, the secure drop box by the office door or mail checks to St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Deadline is February 25.

Sunday Scripture Readings

February 4	Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39
February 11	2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9
February 18	Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15
February 25	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

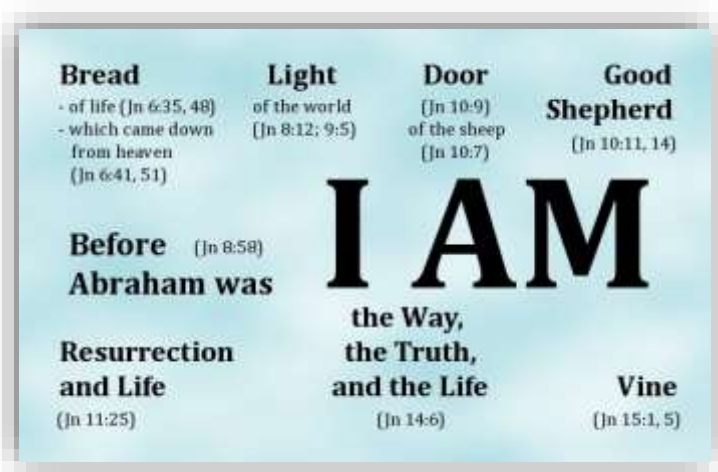
Mid-Week Lenten Worship to Focus On “I Am” Statements of Jesus!

February 14	Ash Wednesday
February 21	“I AM the Bread of life”
February 28	“I AM the Light of the World”
March 6	“I AM the Door”
March 13	“I AM the Good Shepherd”
March 20	“I AM the Resurrection and the Life”

HOLY WEEK

March 28	Maundy Thursday
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 am

Make our mid-week worship services part of your Lenten discipleship every Wednesday at 7:00 pm starting Ash Wednesday, February 14.



A Lutheran Night at the Twins St. Philip’s Contact Person Needed

“Lutheran Night at the Twins” is an annual event which St. Philip’s has offered for many years. Glenda Schnirring has coordinated the outing but is stepping down. She is offering the small task to anyone who’s interested in keeping the opportunity going. The game for 2024 is August 12, at 6:40 pm with the Kansas City Royals.

The job consists of receiving information from St. Philip’s Twins contact (Ryan Thompson) which includes a poster for the kiosk and a form to remit once monies are collected. You will be responsible for advertising the game in the newsletters and church bulletin. The coordinator collects the ticket money from those going and sends it in by the strict deadline which is three weeks before the game. The Twins send the coordinator the tickets and the coordinator sees that each purchaser receives their tickets. Interested? Contact Glenda by phone or email glendaschnirring@gmail.com if you are willing to take it over or have questions.

Preschool Registration 2024-25

Preschool registration is open to SPLC members and current families of the preschool on Tuesday, February 20 at 8:00 am. Forms will be available on the welcome center or at www.splchastings.org under the Preschool tab. Registration will begin for the community on Tuesday, February 27 at our Open House at 5:30 - 6:30 pm.



Frontal Temporal Dementia (FTD) Support Group

The FTD Support Group is open to all who are looking for support when caring for loved ones with Frontal Temporal Dementia. They meet at 10 am on the second Tuesday of the month at the Hastings Senior Center, 310 River Street, Hastings. All you need to bring is yourself, in whatever capacity you feel comfortable. If you have questions you can contact Linda Baxter at 651-238-7266.

Keeping Connected

Hello from the Retterath Family! Josh, Keegan (9), Monroe (6), Aubrey (2) and I (Chelsey) come to St. Philip's from the

neighboring community of Cannon Falls. We have been blessed to be members of St. Philip's since 2015. Here is a little background on our family and how we came to be members at St. Philip's. Josh is originally from North Dakota, and



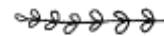
I grew up in the suburb of Oakdale. We met when we were both attending college at NDSU in Fargo, North Dakota. GO BISON! Josh graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and started working at 3M in Maplewood after graduation. I graduated with a degree in Nursing and started my career as an Oncology nurse at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. We were married in October 2012 and settled in the town of Cannon Falls because it was a halfway point from both of our jobs. When we first moved there, we never imagined that this would be our home, eleven years later and we are still there! Keegan and Monroe both attend Cannon Falls Elementary. Keegan is in third grade and Monroe is in kindergarten. Keegan is my sports loving guy. He plays football, basketball, baseball and golf. He is especially enjoying basketball season this year because Dad helps coach. Monroe loves to read, color and take dance class. Aubrey is our youngest and will be turning two years old this February! She keeps us on our toes and charms us with her sweet smile.

Once we found out that we were expecting our first child in 2013, Josh and I set out on a mission to find a church that we would call home and attend with our family for years to come. We both grew up being involved in our local churches and knew that was something that we wanted for our future family. Finding a new church is a hard endeavor! We tried church after church after church, none giving us that right feeling.....until we came to St. Philip's. It was the first church that we wanted to continue to go back to each Sunday. Then when Pastor Geier came on board it was a done deal. We knew we had found our church and decided to become members. On a side note, it also turned out that one of my coworker's

parents (Jim and Vonnie Olson) attended St. Philip's and this was the church that she grew up attending. What a small world it is sometimes! She spoke so highly of the congregation and told me that I would be happy with my choice. We met Jim and Vonnie shortly after and they became our sponsors as new members. That solidified our decision even more. I felt that was God's sign telling us we were in the right place. That has proven to be true!

One thing that I have always appreciated about St. Philip's is how welcoming and supportive the congregation is. You walk in and are greeted with many smiles and hellos. Another aspect that makes St. Philip's shine is its love for the children and youth of the congregation. There are so many members that go out of their way to talk to my children and make them feel included and special. As a parent that means so much! My children have enjoyed participating in church activities, especially VBS! They are still singing songs from VBS daily and look forward to it each summer. I even find myself humming the tunes as well LOL. Not only have we gotten the pleasure of being part of the congregation but my two older children, Keegan and Monroe both attended St. Philip's Preschool. The staff are truly the best and really give their all to their students.

I am so grateful that my family and I are part of this incredible faith community. I look forward to watching my children grow in their faith and go through their milestone moments as part of this congregation.



The Cummings Family - Our family is so happy to be



a part of the St. Philip's family. Ethan and I both grew up attending church and we are excited to share our faith with our children. I grew up in Webster City, Iowa, attended college at the University of Northern Iowa, and moved to the Twin

Cities for student teaching. I teach at an elementary school in Woodbury as a High-Needs Special Education teacher for students with Autism. Before receiving my master's degree from Concordia St. Paul, I taught Spanish for two years and English as a Second Language for three years. I also teach the pre-k and kindergarten group for Sunday School.

Ethan is from McGregor, Minnesota and attended college at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He moved to the area after graduation for work. He is a CPA at John A. Knutson & Co., PLLP in Falcon Heights.

Ethan and I met in 2014; we have a "modern love story" as we met online. We were married in 2016 at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. We moved to Hastings from Woodbury in the spring of 2017. We joined St. Philip's in the spring of 2019 while we were expecting the arrival of our first child, Baker. Baker was baptized in October of that year. Many of you might know him as the child that always has a comment during the children's sermon or as the donkey who got loose at the Christmas Program! Our second child, Tatum (Tate), was born in January of 2023 and baptized in September. She turned one last week and has started to walk, our house will never be the same!

We are excited to be a part of St. Philip's and look forward to growing in our faith.

Ethan, Lydia, Baker and Tatum Cummings

A Service of Lessons and Carols

A service of lessons and carols was presented on Sunday, December 30, with the singing of many carols and intermittent lessons from scripture read by Camille Johnson Oster and Tom Bullington.

Margaret Cox and her grandson, Oliver, offered beautiful cello music as featured numbers and in support of the hymns being sung throughout the service.



Christmas Eve Celebrated

A total of 365 worshippers came to St. Philip's for one of the two Christmas Eve services. The Advent / Christmas mural completed by fifty-nine members in October, made its first appearance as a Christmas Eve focus.



Thirty-five poinsettias graced the altar and its surround to beautify the chancel.



Mary Ellen Fox and Brin Peterson provided special music at the 5 pm service.



ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor

pastorgeier@splchastings.org

Noreen Swanson, Organist

swansonhastings@centurylink.net

Ellen Diischer, Coordinator of Worship Planning

ellend@splchastings.org

LuAnn Roiger, Handbell Choir Director

lroiger58@gmail.com

Kelsey Wormley, Children's Choir Director

kelseyw@splchastings.org

Christine Rydel, Business Manager

christiner@splchastings.org

John Diischer, Sound Board Technician

johnnd@splchastings.org

Lista Klocow, Office Manager

listak@splchastings.org

Becky Kaphing, Preschool Co-Director

preschool@splchastings.org

Lorelei Rein, Preschool Co-Director

preschool@splchastings.org

Rachel Moritz, Assistant Teacher

preschool@splchastings.org

Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher

preschool@splchastings.org

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

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541

www.splchastings.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service:

In Person and Livestream Worship at 9:30 am

(Livestream link on www.splchastings.org,

YouTube and Facebook)

Sunday Education Hour:

Adult Forum at 10:30 am in the Learning Room

Sunday School at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Lenten Worship Service:

In Person and Livestream Worship

Wednesdays starting February 14 thru March 20 at 7:00 pm

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

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Hastings, MN 55033

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St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Hastings, MN 55033

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