

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

May 2024

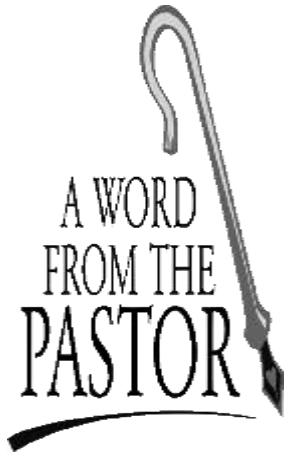
May Events

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|-------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, May 1 | Feed My Starving Children |
| Saturday, May 4 | Roadside Park Clean-Up
8:30-10:00 am |
| Sunday, May 5 | Last Day of Sunday School
Celebration |
| Thursday, May 9 | WELCA Meeting /
Circle Bible Study
9:30 am |
| May 10 and 11 | Synod Assembly |
| Saturday, May 18 | SPLC Grounds Clean-Up |
| Sunday, May 19 | Pentecost |
| May 23 and 24 | Last Days of Preschool |

And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4b-5

From the epistle lesson for May 5



When problems seem to overwhelm us, we suppose that we can solve them by our own efforts. While God wants us to employ the strength and wisdom he has given us, ultimately it is only Jesus who offers real help and deliverance.

The biblical account of God's people in the desert offers insights for our situation. For a time, while the Israelites were in the wilderness, venomous snakes brought about the death of many. They could not save themselves. God told Moses to construct a bronze snake and place it on a pole. Anyone bitten by one of the poisonous snakes slithering around would live if he or she looked up at the bronze snake on the pole. (Numbers 21:6-9)

What gives us the victory over the problems and difficult situations we encounter in this world is not looking inward to our own strength and ability but upward to the cross of Christ and all it represents. God sent his son to die on a cross and to offer to all the forgiveness of sins. The answer to our problems is to look at the cross and to Jesus who endured the cross for us.

Our look to Jesus on the cross is a look of faith and trust and hope. It is a look of faith—we lay hold of the Good News of forgiveness and salvation. It is a look of trust—we lay ourselves and our future in the arms of Jesus, holding him to his promises. It is a look of hope—as the author of Hebrews wrote, “We have this hope as an anchor.” (6:19)

As people of faith and hope we look to the cross and we look beyond the cross to the empty tomb. Through our faith in the risen Christ we know that we have conquered not only the power of sin but even the power of death. We face many challenges in this world during our earthly lives. If we rely on upon ourselves

we are destined for disappointment and despair. When we rely on our Savior, Jesus the Christ, we are guaranteed victory. In whatever challenges you may be experiencing, I pray that you may feel the presence of our Savior and know that his strength will sustain you in this life and through eternity.

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*

– Among Our Own –

Sympathies to...

Betty Lou Baysinger and family as they mourn the death of nephew, Richard Wenthe
Art and Kathy Luedtke and family as they mourn the death of their niece Amy Luedtke

Thank You...

A very sincere thank you for the prayers, cards, rides and never-wavering support provided by the St. Philip's family of faith during Ellen's fight with Pancreatic Cancer. Your love and care following her death provided an enormous source of strength and comfort for our family.

John Diischer

Giving and Expense Update

	2024	2023
March 2024 YTD General and Misc Giving	\$148,085.20	\$123,787.63
March 2024 YTD Capital Fund	\$47,320.50	\$42,119.00
March 2024 YTD Expenses	\$158,447.63	\$150,258.63
Net	\$36,958.07	\$15,648.00
March 2024 YTD Mortgage Principal Required	\$23,275.68	\$22,518.25

Preschool Chatter

We can't believe we are starting our last month of school for the year. It has been such a fun school year. In the month of April, the children were very busy learning about the Chicka Chicka Boom Boom book, rain and rainbows, bees, Eric Carle books, and five senses. Some highlights of the month were letter hunting, rainbow color day, and being busy bees. We are really looking forward to our spring field trip this year which will be at Carpenter Nature center on April 30. This year we will be having a pancake breakfast for families before we load up the bus and head out. We will be learning about using our senses to explore nature.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Raise Right fundraiser to help cover this trip for our students. Our next Raise Right goal will be to get more woodchips for our playground. We currently are comparing prices to find the best deal. This is going to be a very large expense due to the amount we need and the fact they must be playground grade. So thank you in advance for your continued support. Remember that with Raise Right if you shop at Cub or Walmart weekly/monthly, buying these cards for face value and/or reloading them will cost you nothing extra and really helps us out.

During the month of April, we also had parent/teacher conferences. This is an important time in the spring particularly to talk with families about their child's progress. It is amazing to see how much these children progress and grow in eight months. Many of our students will be heading off to kindergarten this fall and it is a great opportunity for teachers to let parents know what to expect during the next exciting transition for their children.

As we begin to finish off this school year we are also already looking forward to the next one. Enrollment for fall is underway. Current numbers for next year are a little lower than where they were at this point last year. We do continue to see the number of children in the area declining. It remains a concern for our little program to have enough students enrolling to cover operating expenses. If you know anyone looking for a preschool, please share our information. If own a business where we could hang a flyer up or you are willing to place a sign in your yard to help us get the word out, please let us know. We are also looking to maybe post some families' personal experiences on our Facebook page. If you or your child attended St. Philip's Preschool and would like to share a fun story about what you enjoyed about the program, please

feel free to share it directly on our preschool page/tag us in your story or email it to us and we'd be happy to post it. As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors

Sunday Scripture Readings

May 5	Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17
May 12	Acts 1;15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19
May 19	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 26	Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

May Adult Forums

On May 5 and May 12 a three-week series on the Unhoused/Homeless continues, led by Lisa Bergert. Learn about and discuss the different dimensions of those who live without a permanent roof over their head. Who are they? What defines someone as homeless? What is the unhoused situation in our community? We will discover the social, psychological, and theological dimensions of these fellow children of God.

These last two sessions on homelessness conclude the season for Sunday morning Adult Forums, BUT look for summer evening offerings in the June newsletter!

May Park Clean-Up

This is a great service opportunity for all! We have been assigned Roadside Park on Highway 55. Park clean-up will begin at 8:30 am on Saturday, May 4.

- Look for the SignUpGenius that was emailed to you recently or contact the office or Cindy Toppin to sign up.
- Meet at the pavilion. We will have bags and pickers from the Park and Rec Department.
- There will be donut balls!!!!

If you have questions, send an email to ctoppin409@gmail.com

Let's Serve Together!

Discovery Team Set to Work
With InterServe Ministries!

In addition to Pastor Geier, our InterServe Discovery Team includes:

Dan Strehlow – Council President
Becky Kaphing – Faith Formation
Peyton Thomas – Youth
Emily Wormley – Youth
Vanessa Haltvick – Parent
Kristian Ronning – Parent
Tiffany Stewart – Parent
Kathy Luedke – Youth Advocate

Our Discovery Team, along with our Interim Director of Youth Ministries, will work together to hold focus groups, identify needs, lay out and implement ideas for our ministry. Ultimately we will be developing a clear vision for our youth ministry that fits in with the mission and passion of the larger St. Philip's church community. We will then tweak/redevelop an appropriate job description, and devise a strategy to recruit the best possible candidates.

Although our Discovery Team will be taking leadership roles in this process, this partnership with InterServe will need participation from the whole congregation for us to achieve the greatest success moving forward. Please look for opportunities where you may get involved and contribute. We are doing this together!



Stay Tuned to Meet Our
Interim Director of Youth Ministries!



VBS Registration Is Now Open!

This year we are doing Hero Hotline Vacation Bible School. We are excited to learn about some heroes from the Bible and how we can all be heroes in our own way. VBS is open for ages 3 (fully potty trained) - finished the fifth grade. To make this week a success we also need ALOT of teen and adult volunteers. Please prayerfully consider joining us July 22-25. If you have any questions, please reach out to beckyk@splchastings.org.



Confirmation SERVING Event!

Wednesday May 1
6:15-9:00 pm



Come join our confirmation students as we make a difference by packing meals for hungry neighbors around the world! Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children is a great team-building experience. Enjoy working together to save lives and feed kids in a positive, energetic and team-focused environment. We have 8-10 extra slots available.

If you have already participated in a FMSC event, then you know how much fun it is. If you haven't done this yet, now is the time! Those who want to will meet at the church to form carpools and leave at 6:15 pm. Otherwise plan on being at 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136 in Eagan by 7:00 pm. Our slot to learn and work is from 7:00-8:30 pm and we hope to be back at the church around 9:00 pm.

Rolling Down the St. Croix, June 13, Forty Women Strong!

Think about a friend, neighbor, or family member who would like to join St. Philip's women on a two-hour cruise on the St. Croix, Thursday, June 13. The cruise is boarding at 10:45 am and departing at 11:00 am and returning at 1:00 pm at the Hudson City Docks, 98 Walnut Street, Hudson, Wisconsin.

The trip may possibly be a perfect gift for someone you know. Whatever is your situation we hope YOU will find it possible to sign up and join in this unusual outing not often available to everyone. Notice, it's a two-hour cruise with lunch, surrounded by fun company. There will be carpools made up by those who sign up as drivers. We need forty people on the cruise, which is why we are wanting you to make plans now to attend. Pay Deborah Dreher \$39 (checks payable to WELCA) by May 31 please.

If We Have It, They Will Come!

Garage & Plant Sale Flyer Enclosed

Hey everyone, the Garage & Plant Sale is just over one month away. Deborah Dreher has her management skills at full throttle as we look forward to NUMBER 19 of St. Philip's total garage sales. Please find merchandise for the sale. The crowd that comes is enormous and we promise lots of goods at fair prices. See the flyer for items we know we can't sell and which we don't accept. Most of all, find goods in your homes and garages, and find time to help as you see the sign up boards emerge in mid-May.

Thanks one and all for your participation in this outreach to the community. They love it and they will be here.



First Communion Update

On Maundy Thursday, we were able to celebrate with Miles Anderson, Harrison Haltvick, Keegan Retterath, Espen Ronning, Preston Stewart, Maxwell Thomas, Annabella Willis, and Madalyn Zimmerman, as they received Holy Communion for the first time. They and their parents participated in two introductory orientation sessions prior to helping them prepare for the big day. Be sure to congratulate them as they continue on their faith journeys!



Quilt Blessing

On Sunday, April 14, twenty-four quilts tied by the Do Days crew were blessed before being transported to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul. From there, they will be baled with quilts from other churches and sent to somewhere around the world where people are experiencing shelter insecurity due to poverty, violence or natural disaster. Thank you for all your support with quilt purchases last fall, and donations of blankets, sheets and fabric that make it possible for us to do this work. Come join us any first or third Thursday of the month from 1-4 pm and help us create more!

Do Days Members: Richard Beatty, Jeannie Evans, Barb Jorenby, Darla Kimmes, Vicki Pavlish, Carolyn Schaar, Jennie Thomas, Bernita Weber, Steve Wolverton, Jean Zeimet



Mayor for a Day

Harrison Hultvik, was one of two students to be Mayor for a Day, on January 16. Harrison is in the fourth grade at Kennedy. He took the opportunity to write an essay about Hastings' future. The idea had come from Mayor Fasbender while in conversation with her at "Hastings' Hoopla".



Harrison's essay focused on the need for "community" where people come together and get to know each other. He reflected on all the help his family got when his brother broke his arm.

If Harrison were mayor, he would try to make sure our community is strong and running, keeping things up to date and try to keep people from having concerns. He'd also like a "math center" where kids could go to have fun with math related activities.

The two students attended a city council meeting where the two essays were read along with a tour of city hall and had pizza with Hastings council members. The Hastings Journal, January 25, contains the contents of both student essays. Congratulations Harrison, St. Philip's is proud that you did the work of writing a winning essay about Hastings future.

Altar Linens

New altar linens for communion have recently been purchased. They are made of Belgian linen and feature a Jerusalem cross motif woven into the cloth. This gift was made possible by a donation from WELCA and the Diischer family in honor and memory of Ellen. Our gratitude and love to them.

SPLC Grounds Clean-Up

Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 - 11:30 am

Spring cleanup on the church grounds is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 beginning at 9 am. Bring your gloves and small weeding tools plus rakes and pruners. Bags will be provided. All ages are welcome.

Keeping Connected

Greetings from the Hanson family!



Annette grew up on a dairy farm in Rush City, Minnesota, attended Luther College, and started teaching kindergarten in Cambridge, Minnesota in 1993.

After being born in Granite Falls, Minnesota, Jeff's next three years were spent living in Hastings where his dad was assistant principal at Hastings Junior High, with principal Skip Linnemann, then moved to Austin, Minnesota where he grew up. He attended the University of Minnesota-Morris. After student teaching at Hastings Middle School in 1992, he was hired to teach math and coach at HMS in the fall of 1993.

After meeting through a mutual friend, we were married in 1995 at Woodbury Lutheran Church and moved to Hastings in 1997, where Annette got a job teaching at Kennedy Elementary, transferring to McAuliffe Elementary the following year.

We began actively looking for a church home in Hastings. After an invitation from good friends Farid and Diane Saed, we visited St. Philip's and immediately felt it was the right fit. Pastor Phil Walen and everyone we met were kind and welcoming. We were lucky to have Bert and Margaret Goderstad as our sponsors when we chose to become members.

We got involved right away, singing in choir, becoming part of the Preschool committee, teaching Sunday School, and serving in various other roles.

We have been blessed with three children, Miranda, Linnea, and Jared, who were embraced and encouraged in their faith journeys by this congregation. They all attended St. Philip's preschool, Sunday School, VBS, and Confirmation. Ellen and John Diischer were major influences in their lives

through many years of Children's Choir, Children's Musicals, and Rushmore Music Camp. We have wonderful memories of attending Family Camp with other St. Philip's families for eight years.

Some of our favorite church events have been volunteering at the Italian Dinners, Apple Fest, Feed My Starving Children, Vacation Bible School, and many others. We have connected with many different members of our church family through these opportunities. There are too many special people to name here!

We are honored to continue working for Hastings Schools. In our free time, we enjoy attending our children's concerts and special events, traveling, biking and hiking, reading, and being in our yard. Miranda graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Music. She currently lives with her boyfriend, Eric, in Leesburg, Virginia where she is a music instructor. Linnea is a student at Gustavus Adolphus College, majoring in Biology. Jared is a senior at Hastings High School and plans to attend Luther College.

This congregation has sincere witnesses who support, uplift, and accept all people. They inspire us to be faithful servants of God, inside the church and out in the world. We are incredibly grateful to be part of St. Philip's Lutheran Church.

Hello Everyone! My name is Abby Mattimiro and I have been a member at St. Philip's well... since I was born - a Schultz then. My husband (Thomas) and I were married by Pastor Geier in July of 2022 and became members as a couple in June of 2023!



Thomas and I met in high school, but we didn't end up dating until after our high school graduation. We both had committed to two different colleges (Augsburg College for me and UW-Steven's Point for Thomas) so we decided that we would try to make "long-distance" work. Thank goodness for cell phones, Skype, and vehicles! We were able to see each other at least once a month, sometimes more! With the help of technology, we learned to communicate with each other and share

everything about our college lives! It was hard at first, but I think by year two we both knew that we were going to marry each other. Thomas and I will be celebrating our second wedding anniversary in July and our 11th dating anniversary in June. Man does time fly by!

Thomas spends his free time playing Ultimate Frisbee and Goalty. We owe Ultimate Frisbee a lot of credit to some of the amazing friendships we now have. I am currently spending my free time directing musicals at Prescott Middle School and participating in any choral groups that I can. Lately, it has been the Oratoral Society of Minnesota - Summer Chorus.



We love to travel - our favorite place so far is Italy! When we aren't traveling to see new places and friends, we try to get outside as much as possible. We have hiked a lot of places and are still trying to cross more from our list.

I spent a lot of time at St. Philip's growing up, so when we moved out of Hastings - we knew that we weren't ready to give up that community - which is why we decided that we wanted to become members. It was a no-brainer! We are both on our own faith journeys but we love that we get to experience it together in such a welcoming and inclusive church like St. Philip's.

We can't wait to see everyone around!



Recent Adult Education Forums

Three of St. Philip's several educators created a panel of information for those attending an Adult Education session on March 24.



Real-experience messages were shared by Annette Hanson, Lori Best, and Katy Nye. The

session was very insightful on the challenges our educators face. An active discussion followed on how St. Philip's could best show its support for all the District's teachers and administrators.

On April 7 Adult Education invited two high school students on to talk to those attending about their experiences in high school following the pandemic era. Dillon Koenig and Austin Pavel did an excellent job of explaining their respective



experiences regarding harmony among students and their academic challenges following a time when all students were expected to learn from home.

Sunday School Greeters

The 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school class of Marjorie Peterson and Bernita Weber served as greeters for the April 14, worship service. Those attending enjoyed the warm welcomes from the students immensely.



Keeping It in the Family

For two of the Wednesday Lenten services song leaders happened to be family or extended family members.



Emily Wormley and her mother Kelsey Wormley did an early Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service.



Mr. Julian Ronning supported granddaughter Julia Ronning as they offered their leading of the Holden Prayer Service later in the Lenten season.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday was observed with Pastor Geier leading young people into the sanctuary as a processional. All worshippers received a palm as they entered worship.



A Meaningful Good Friday Observance



As is customary, St. Philip's offers a solemn Good Friday service which culminates in darkness. The Handbell Choir offered appropriate music to complete the message of the evening. Acolytes Tor Ronning and Grant Anderson dutifully extinguished two candles each time they approached the altar following readings, hymns and meditation times of the congregation.



The children were asked to line up in such a way that their cards would spell out "Christ is Risen Today." It took a bit of management.

Easter Worship

Easter worship at St. Philips' two services received 350 in attendance. The altar was graced by memorial/honorary plants from thirty-five households. It was a celebratory morning honoring the message of "He Is Risen".



Pastor Geier welcomed the congregation with the joyous message of the day



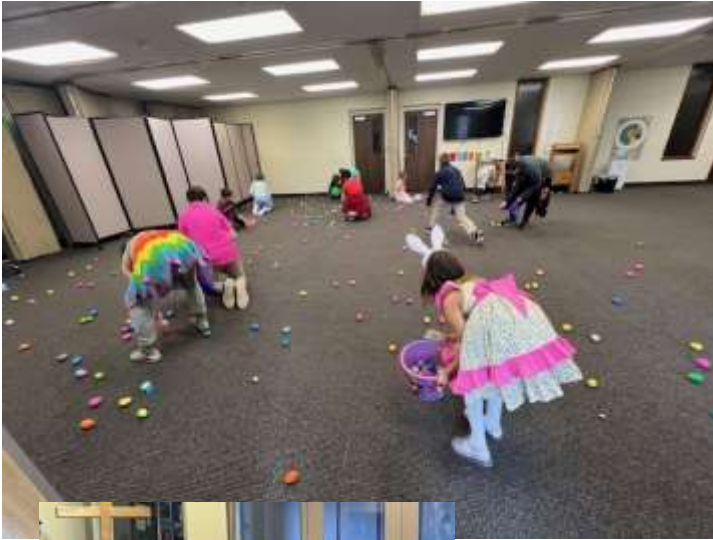
Becky Raimann directed St. Philip's choral group in a very nice appropriate anthem



Adding to the morning were eight high school students who led the opening and closing hymns of the morning. They were much appreciated. Trumpets - Rachel Fischer and Trenton Perrault; French horn - Julia Ronning and Josephine Lockwood; Trombone - Jared Hanson and Elliot Renneke and Euphonium - David Tireman and Matthew Wegener

Easter Egg Hunt and Fun Things

Well Mother Nature decided we would hold our Easter celebration inside this year. We still enjoyed a nice morning of fellowship with crafts and our annual egg hunt. We ended up filling the old sanctuary and the fellowship hall with hundreds of eggs that were all claimed in less than 10 minutes. Thanks to everyone who donated candy and stuffed eggs!



Pastor Elizabeth Damico Carpenter

On April 7 visiting Pastor Elizabeth Damico Carpenter captivated the children during their sermon with “seeing Jesus”. Note the children are asked to look into the congregation and there they would “see Jesus” in the hearts and minds of those they see.



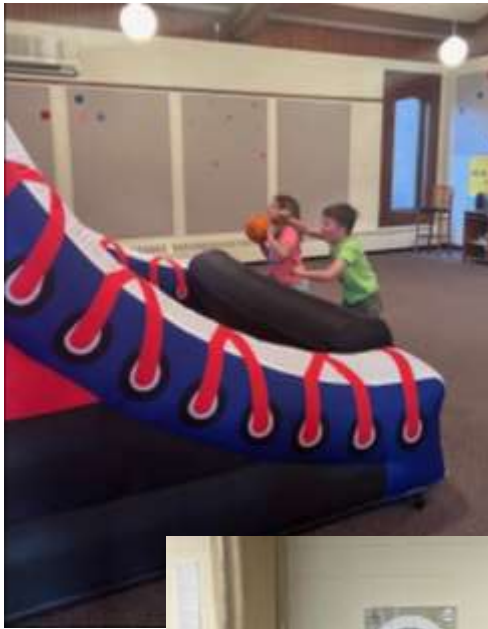
Cherub Choir

Nine strong voices from the cherub choir gave it up with gusto on a recent Sunday under the direction of Kelsey Wormley. The choir stood in threes each triplet around a microphone which magnified their voices as they offered music to begin and end the service. The congregation appreciated them with applause.



Family of Faith Game Night

On Saturday, April 13 we had a family game night. Families brought a wide variety of games to share, along with corn hole, basketball, hopscotch, ping pong, and pizza. It was great for members of all ages to come together and have fun. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor

pastorgeier@splchastings.org

Noreen Swanson, Organist

swansonhastings@centurylink.net

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

johnd@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

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