

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*

August 2024 Events



Campfire Conversations

Sunday, August 18

6:30-7:30 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, August 22

12-6 pm

Pie and Ice Cream

Outdoor Concert

Sunday, August 25

6:00 pm

Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, August 24

Lutheran World Relief

School Supply Drive

Collection Continues

Registration for Sunday

School and Confirmation

Opens Soon

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?"

John 6:56-61



The really difficult part of our faith as followers of Christ lies in our coming to grips with the claims that Jesus makes about himself - his claims about how he not only points to God and God's love for us but that in him and through him the life that God wants to give us is conveyed to us.

There are many seekers after truth who recognize Jesus as a great teacher, even as a great miracle worker - but who cannot accept his claim - and the claim that the Apostles have ever made about him - that he is the way, the truth, and the life. As with many of those who had followed Jesus around the land of Israel and Palestine 2000 years ago, the statement made by Jesus in today's reading in which he claims to give life to us through his body and his blood - that body and that blood which we hold up to all every time we gather before this table - is too hard for them.

- Too hard for them to accept.
- Too hard for them to believe.
- Too hard for them to commit themselves

And when we really look at some of the things that Jesus said, it is no wonder. "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. I can imagine Jesus asking me, "Does this offend you, Greg?"

Yes, it offends me. When I really think about it, it sounds like cannibalism. It feels bloodthirsty and unrefined. It brings things down to the level of flesh and blood, heat and flies buzzing, to reality. There is nothing dainty about what you are saying, Jesus.

This is especially true when we read the actual words you used. You did not just say the common words for eating but the word trogon which means to munch audibly or to gnaw like animals pulling meat of the bone. It is no wonder people stopped following you.

Why did you use THAT word, Jesus? I've seen documentaries of animals gnawing at their food. For them, when they eat that way, it is a matter of survival. They want every bit they can to sustain them. Is that the kind of hunger and mindset you want me to have? That I need this meal, your body and blood, to survive? It certainly makes me look at our refined wafers and individual sanitary cups in a different light.

Yes, your words offend me. They ask me to trust. They place me on a fence and say I must jump; I cannot stay there.

But...where can I go? You have the words of eternal life! Despite my reservations, my twentieth century hang-ups, my intellectual pride, I understand this one thing, it all comes down to trust, to faith, to belief. You, Lord, are the Holy One of God. Therefore, no matter how I may struggle with your "difficult" words, I will cling to them and eat and drink that I may abide with you forever.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier

Sunday Scripture Readings

August 4	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
August 11	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51
August 18	Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
August 25	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69

Save the Date – Rally Day

Join us September 8 after the service for bounce houses, games, and snacks as we kick off our Sunday School program year! Classroom lessons will begin the following Sunday, September 15. More details to come.



Sunday School Registration

Sunday School is just around the corner, and now is the perfect time to enroll. Registration forms can soon be found on the Welcome Center or online.

We are excited for our little ones to start learning in the fall, but we are also looking for help from our adults in the congregation. We are currently looking for volunteers to be teacher, substitutes, and classroom helpers. No classroom experience required, and no obligation to volunteer for the full year. We are grateful for whatever support you can offer to this ministry. Please contact Pastor, Becky Kaphing, or Nick Clark for more information.

Confirmation: Registration and Start Dates

Students who are starting 6th - 9th grade this fall are invited to join Wednesday evening Confirmation. To register, please fill out the registration form at the welcome center or online (coming soon).

Confirmation Orientation will be on September 4 at 6:45 pm. This will include an opportunity to sign-up for acolyting along with some time to practice “playing with fire.” Regular lessons for all students will begin the following week, September 11 at 6:45 pm. Looking forward to seeing you all this fall!

Discovery Team Update

The St. Philip's Discovery Team is continuing its discernment work for the hiring of long-term Children, Youth and Family ministry staff person. The Team has met two times so far over the summer, and plans to present a hiring plan to the council Spring 2025.

In preparation for that, the Discovery Team is currently drafting a congregational survey that will be released early/mid-September. Your feedback will be very important to our strategic planning for this position. More information to come.

– Among Our Own –

Sympathies to...

Dan Strehlow and family as they mourn the death of his father Floyd Strehlow
Family and friends of Martha Sofio as they mourn her death

Congratulations...

To all those celebrating their wedding anniversary in August. Listed below are couples reaching a special anniversary...

- Rick and Mindy Tavernier** on their 15th wedding anniversary on August 8
- Warren and Katie Thomas** on their 10th wedding anniversary on August 9
- Christian and Abbie (Williams) Waage** on their 1st wedding anniversary on August 11
- Chuck and Cynthia Clanton** on their 40th wedding anniversary on August 12
- Kristian and Lizbet Ronning** on their 20th wedding anniversary on August 14
- Galen and Kathy Willis** on their 40th wedding anniversary on August 18
- Earl and Kathy Stockman** on their 60th wedding anniversary on August 22
- Steve and Carol Tobin** on their 55th wedding anniversary on August 23
- Timothy and Katy Rowan** on their 20th wedding anniversary on August 28
- Bob and Linda Brommer** on their 60th wedding anniversary on August 29

Giving and Expense

2024	2023
June 2024 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$266,743.67	\$256,267.53
June 2024 YTD Capital Fund	
\$79,620.50	\$81,896.50
June 2024 YTD Expenses	
\$304,954.68	\$292,461.48
Net	
\$41,409.49	\$45,702.55
June 2024 YTD Mortgage Principal Required	
\$48,128.63	\$44,873.39

Lutheran World Relief School Supply Drive



It's hard to believe, but the Back to School displays are up in the stores already and that means it is time to start collecting supplies for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits we will be packing on Rally Sunday, September 10! Each kit needs:

- FOUR** spiral notebooks of 70 pages of EITHER wide or narrow rule paper (45¢ at the local big box store)
- ONE** pair blunt children's scissors (77¢, big box)
- ONE** 2.5" pink eraser (generic 2/47¢ big box)
- ONE** box 16 or 24 crayons, Crayola brand, please – they ship and work better and aren't that much more expensive than generics (boxes of 24 are 50¢ at the big box)
- FIVE** blue or black ball point pens (no gel ink!!!) 10/94¢ at the big box when in stock
- ONE** 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (but none without centimeters! (wood ones 54¢ at the big box, plastic ones 3/\$1.25 at a dollar store)
- ONE** pencil sharpener (47¢ with shavings catcher at the big box)
- FIVE** UNSHARPENED #2 pencils (24/97¢ at the big box)

We filled 264 bags last year and for this year we just ordered 400 pre-made bags with a Thrivent grant and donations. Can we fill them all? If you would prefer that we shop for you, donation envelopes are in a plastic sleeve on the kiosk. Envelopes should be placed in the lock box outside the church office.

Questions, please contact Jan Kochendorfer.

Blood Drive

We will be opening our doors again to the Red Cross for a life-saving afternoon blood drive on August 22 from 12 - 6 pm.

If you would like to help greet our guests or clean up, please contact Katy Lindberg 651-437-5031. If you are eligible, please sign up to donate at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

Did you know only 37% of the population can donate blood and only 7% do? Be a life saver!

Complete the Dream Update

The "Complete the Dream" initiative to complete the intended construction of the southwest wing finished very successfully. The final result was \$165,750 which was pledged from 103 St. Philip's member households and friends of St. Philip's.

It's without pause, that we give thank God for the spirit of every donor who found it possible to participate with their financial resources. The endeavor was motivated by a pledge of \$80K toward the completion of the rooms intended in the 2013 expansion. In a six-week period an amount over the goal of \$130K was reached.

Construction will begin July 26, and is scheduled to be complete before mid-September.

The addition will provide offices for a pastor, treasurer, office manager, youth and family staff person, plus an ample work room. The existing offices will become a generous general purpose room, a conference room, and an office for a music staff person. Humble and grateful thanks to all who made this building improvement possible.

Preschool Playground Update

On July 5 the preschool got their new woodchips put into the playground. We would like to thank the congregation for their support. At this time, we have raised \$2,002.36 of the \$ 2,500 needed to fund this project. We did have to go ahead and get it done before the funds were fully raised because we needed to make sure we have the correct amount of woodchips that are required by state licensing.



Family (of Faith) SERVING Event!

Saturday, August 24 at 8:45 am - Noon

Come join your St. Philip's family 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. This is a serving event for most everyone. (For safety reasons, children under the age of 5 are not allowed to be on the packing floor.)

There will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex for you, your family, and your friends. Thirty spots have been reserved for our group, but we can probably get more if we sign up early. We also will only be taking signups through Sunday, August 18, so if there are less than thirty we can let them know so that other groups may fill those spots.

FMSC also asks that we follow this student-to-adult ratio when registering to volunteer which should not be a problem:

- Grades K-2: 1 student to 1 adult
- Grades 3-6: 3 students to 1 adult
- Grades 7-12: 4 students to 1 adult

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 8:45 am. Otherwise plan on being at 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136 in Eagan by 9:15 am. Our slot to learn and work is from 9:30-11:15 am.

LET'S SERVE TOGETHER!

Philadazzle Returns

Mark your calendars for our third annual Philadazzle on Sunday evening, December 1. Ushering in the Advent Season with "Christmas Around the World," we'll have an evening for adults of fun, food, fellowship and music. There will be some new and old menu items, and our entertainment for the evening is pianist, Chris Falteisek, music director at Christ Episcopal Church in Woodbury. Chris is a well-respected musician, world traveler, composer, and photographer. If you are interested in helping on the Philadazzle planning committee, watch for September's meeting date.

Campfire Conversations

Sunday, August 18 at 6:30-7:30 pm

It's no secret that people aren't doing the church thing like they used to. "They" is lots of people, but especially young adults.

Why is that? Well, reasons. Much of it has to do with perceptions of the church (fair and otherwise). This Brewed Theology asks people to consider some of those reasons and perceptions.



These guided conversations focus on the people that are less participatory in religious institutions. Although St. Philip's has a higher than average percentage of young adults involved in our congregational life and leadership, many if not most congregations are experiencing a lack of young adult participation. It seems worthwhile to ask ourselves why that is. This conversation will ask participants to consider why young adults are scarce, what they want, and how we might hear them.

For those interested in downloading some related material prior to our conversations, the link below will be sent out with our weekly email prior to the 18th. If you would prefer a hard copy, please let the office know.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:41325dac-a395-47d7-98f6-651bb7b5b521>

Garden Sharing Time

Is your garden providing more produce than your family can use? It's time to share the harvest with your fellow church goers! All are welcome to bring any fruits, veggies or herbs, and all are welcome to help yourself to take items home each week.

Thanks for sharing!

St. Philip's Pie and Outdoor Concert at the Historic LeDuc

St. Philip's will host pie, brownies and ice cream behind the LeDuc on Sunday, August 25, at 6 pm. The featured music group is the "Double Down Daredevils", which we know well. A request for eighteen homemade pies and two pans of brownies will be on the kiosk in August. Plan on attending, bring your own chair. It's a fun time. Proceeds are earmarked for Lutheran Social Service of MN serving a wide variety of human need for any of us.

New Member Sunday

A celebratory segment of the July 14 worship service, was the receiving of seven new households into St. Philip's congregation. This results in fourteen additional members who will now share in the joy and mission of all of what happens at St. Philip's.



Dylan Koenig was a sponsor for his friend Austin Pavel, who had to be absent. Dave Tank is in conversation with Dylan



Gail Carstensen, Brenda Arndtson, Lizbet Ronning are welcoming new members Erica Swenson and Kevin Ekstrom



Dara and Dolores Pemble welcome new member Jim Wagner



Apryl Wagner and Lori Best are already friends which made the new member reception more fun



New member Patty Wilson helps welcome a visitor with LuAnn Roiger



Vacation Bible Sneak Peek

July 20 and 21 the church was buzzing as children, teens, and adults took time to decorate and prepare for vacation Bible school. As a special decoration each of our volunteers took a paper cut out and designed their own hero cut out. These looked so cute hanging around the church. Then Monday July 22 our hero hotline VBS officially kicked off with 84 students enrolled. Here is a sneak peek of some kick off activities. Be sure to check out Septembers newsletter for a recap of our big week!



Keeping Connected

Hello from Jeff and Stacy Carlson!



Jeff has been a member of St. Philip's since 1985. He moved to Hastings on Saturday, October 31 of that year. As luck would have it, he remembered that one of his college friends was the Youth and Family minister at St. Philip's, so Sunday morning he woke and found his way to the church. That day also

happened to be the start of the new member classes so Jeff signed right up and has been a member ever since! He grew up in Madison, Minnesota, fourth in the line-up of five kids (in 5 1/2 years). He excelled in school, and sports playing football, basketball and tennis. Jeff and his brother Greg were the first Minnesota State High School Boys Tennis Doubles champions in the history of the tournament.

Stacy grew up in Mahtomedi, Minnesota and loved school, sports, and all of the extras like yearbook and the school newspaper. She graduated from St. Olaf and worked in the business world as a Technical Writer. Five years after graduating, she met Jeff at their 5th year reunion in 1988, and were married in December of 1989. Stacy joined St. Philip's at that time. Both Jeff and Stacy have served

in a number of roles at church such as being on Church Council, teaching Sunday School and Confirmation, helping with Communion, serving as ushers, etc.

We have three children: Ben and his wife Julia live



in Prior Lake and are expecting their first child this fall. Hannah is an OR nurse in Gulf Breeze, Florida. Maddie is a Sustainability Consultant and recently moved from Florida back to Minneapolis. All three were very involved in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, the National Youth gatherings, the church musicals, and especially Family Camp at Green Lake. The week at Family Camp was hugely instrumental in their faith development, and created lots of memories and connections with the others who also attended camp. I think they could probably still sing some of those songs they learned all those years ago!

St. Philip's has been, and continues to be, our home church and we are grateful for the rich history of faith and service and friendships that we have received over the years. We are indeed blessed by this church.

you're invited!

**SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD
LISTENING SESSION**

Thursday, August 8 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
7800 W. County Rd. 42, Apple Valley

No registration necessary; just show up!

[Learn more at spas-elca.org](https://spas-elca.org)



Join Bishop Patricia Lull and others for a conversation about life in the church today, including challenges, worries and joys!

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

Nick Clark, Interim Director of Children, Youth
and Families Ministries

nickc@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)

affix label here

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #148
Hastings, MN 55033

St. Philip's Lutheran Church
1401 West 15th Street
Hastings, MN 55033
**Return Service Requested
TIME DATED MATERIAL