

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*

January 2025

**Sunday School and Adult Forum
Sundays at 10:40 am**

**January 15
High School Fellowship Event
(10th - 12th Graders)
Feed My Starving Children
7 pm**

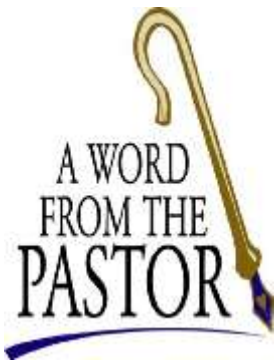
**January 26
Budget Review at 10:40 am**

**Upcoming in February...
February 2
Annual Meeting / Potluck**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

As it is, there are many members, yet one body. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

*1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 20, 26-27
From the Second Lesson for the Third Sunday
Epiphany*



These words written to a conflicted congregation in Corinth by the apostle Paul lift up some of the blessings and challenges of being the church. Paul's words ring as true today as they did almost 2,000 years ago. They are also a word that we need to hear today as much as those first century Christians needed to hear it then.

Since 2009, it seems the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is being defined by the issues with which we wrestle, specifically concerning human sexuality. There are those on both sides of every aspect of this issue within the ELCA and there are those on both sides of every aspect of this issue within St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Hastings.

As of late, divisiveness and vitriol are now commonplace in political discourse. There are those who are thrilled that President Trump won and they can't fathom why those who disagree with them are fearful for what the future four years will look like. Likewise, those who are disappointed in the outcome cannot see how those who disagree with them with could have voted for a candidate whose character they view as morally flawed beyond redemption.

Even as we each have our opinions and feel strongly about them, it is of vital importance that we remember first and foremost that we are all part of the body of

Christ. That is true for your brothers and sisters who agree with you and it is true for your brothers and sisters who disagree with you.

Scripture proclaims that in one Spirit we were baptized into one body. God's Spirit is more powerful than anything that Satan would use to divide us. In no way do I wish to minimize the significance of the issues our country and our church (the ELCA and St. Philip's) is facing. However, I think it helps keep things in perspective when we compare these disagreements with the issues that the early church faced.

This does not mean that we abandon those things we hold to be true and right. What it does mean is that we commit to being together as church, the body of Christ, suffering and rejoicing together. Regardless of which politician is in the White house or which political party controls the house of representatives or the senate, we are all called to care for the most vulnerable among us, advocate for peace in our world, and share the Good News of Jesus' unconditional love with everyone.

It is up to us to unite in prayer and seek God's will for us. It is up to us to see the opportunities that God has provided for us to make a difference. You are an important part of the church and the church needs your input and ideas and energy. On Sunday, February 2 we will gather for our annual meeting. As we seek to evaluate and plan our ministry together, may we realize that whether it is our individual or communal congregational bodies, we belong to God.

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*

Sunday Scripture Readings

January 5	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
January 12	Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 19	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
January 26	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

Preschool Chatter

Happy New Year!

Working in a Christian preschool in the month of December is such a wonderful blessing! Our Classrooms were very busy and exciting with the holiday. Throughout the month of December learning the true meaning of Christmas with stories, songs, and projects. Our children were also busy making gifts for their families, decorating class Christmas trees, listening to stories, and even a class Christmas party. One special part of our Christmas party was our third annual book exchange. Children each wrapped a book, wrote a little note, and then exchanged books. This activity really helps promote what giving is all about in such a fun way.

A huge blessing for our families and staff every year is that our evening Christmas program was able to be held on December 19 with all four classes singing together. The children work so hard on practicing their songs and it really is a magical evening for everyone. Hearing the story of Jesus' birth from these special children is truly a gift for everyone involved.

We would like to thank everyone who has been participating in our RaiseRight gift card fundraiser! We have been able to do so many extra things this year because of your generosity. Some things include new learning toys that have been on a wish list of ours, all of our basic school supplies, special holiday items, and we have even covered our spring field trip costs for all our students. In the new year, we are looking to have Carpenter Nature Center out to our school with some animals and are even working on a service project that our children can participate in.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas season and blessings to you all into the new year!

Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors

– Among Our Own –

Congratulations to...

Millie Jo Williams (daughter of Matthew and Erin Williams) blessings on her baptism

Sympathies to...

Family of Rick Edstrom as they mourn his death
Dan Strehlow and family as they mourn the death of his mother Dorothy Strehlow

Giving and Expense

2024	2023
November 2024 YTD General & Misc Giving	
* \$687,278.48	\$450,795.64
November 2024 YTD Capital Fund	
\$162,506.50	\$155,627.57
November 2024 YTD Expenses	
\$599,591.88	\$525,402.38
Net	
\$250,193.10	\$81,020.83
November 2024 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$87,462.93	\$82,514.66

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child or donated funds to help cover shipping expenses for the shoeboxes. Because of your love and generosity, seventy children and their families have the opportunity to feel God's love and hear about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission to send "Good news and Great joy!"

Emily Preston and Robyn Tank

Adult Forum

Adult Forums for January:

- January 5 and 12: Growing in our faith by reflecting on topics of current interest, guided by The Wired Word
- January 19: A Deeper Dive: Understanding the sermon better, led by Pastor Geier
- January 26: Budget meeting, no Adult Forum

Coming in February: How and what to include in your estate planning and inheritances; setting up wills and trusts, etc. presented by Elaine Mikel, HHS '09, attorney with Best and Flanagan, Minneapolis.

A New Year Blessing...

May God's blessings shower upon you
and bestow upon each of you a bright,
healthy, and peaceful new year.



February 2, 2025 at 10:45 am

**Annual Meeting Will Again Be Both
In-Person and Via Zoom.**

On Sunday, February 2 at 10:45 am, St. Philip's Lutheran Church will conduct our congregation's annual meeting. At this meeting we will accept reports from our staff ministry team and lay ministry team leaders, vote on lay leadership for the coming year, approve a budget.

There will be again be an option to participate via Zoom. This was made possible by a council action in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will also be opportunities to discuss the budget in the weeks prior to the annual meeting through Zoom meetings as well.

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. In the February newsletter be on the watch for the 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.

Please stay tuned for the Zoom links for our budget and constitution forums.

We will also be voting how to distribute our tithe of capital campaign and miscellaneous income evenly between four different ministries, two ministries from Hastings/Dakota County and two from beyond Dakota County. On February 2, you will vote for one ministry in each category and the two ministries in each category receiving the most votes will each get ¼ of our tithe. We are not yet certain if or how those participating remotely might participate in this portion of our meeting.

Ballot for 2024 Benevolence Distribution:

LOCAL (Hastings/Dakota County): VOTE FOR ONE

Feed My Starving Children in Eagan - Feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. Donations received fund the meal ingredients. Volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved! (This is where our confirmation students serve twice a year.)

<https://www.fmsc.org/about-us>

Hastings Family Service – provides nutritious foods for individuals and families through the Market food shelf programs, Meals on Wheels, and supportive services for residents of Independent School District 200.

<https://hastingsfamilyservice.org/programs-services/>

Rise Up Recovery – A non-profit ministry seeking to provide services that support and promote long-term recovery from addiction.

<https://www.riseuprecoverymn.com/>

United Way Food 4 Kids – provides bags filled with kid friendly food every weekend for Hastings students who don't have enough to eat. They average 200 meal bags per week.

<https://unitedwayofhastings.org/site/food-4-kids/>

Beyond Dakota County: VOTE FOR ONE

ELCA Hurricane Disaster Response – Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response/our-impact/hurricane-response>

The Food Group Mobile Market –

Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on a bus! The Mobile Market brings affordable, nutritious foods right to your neighborhood. Anyone can shop for a full selection of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, grains and other high-quality groceries. The bus visits neighborhoods that don't have access to full service grocery stores. They serve nearly 10,000 people at more than 20 sites around St. Paul and Minneapolis.

<https://www.thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/twin-cities-mobile-market/>

 Lutheran Social Services for Youth Homelessness –

Youth in Minneapolis and Saint Paul who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness can find non-judgmental support and assistance at LSS. We serve hundreds of youth every year in the Twin Cities metro area and are committed to providing youth with the resources they need to launch into productive, healthy and independent lives. We provide emergency shelters, drop-in services, transitional housing, and street out reach.

<https://www.lssmn.org/services/youth-homelessness/twin-cities/>

 My Very Own Bed – Provides new beds and linens to children of families who have recently secured stable housing.

https://www.myveryownbed.org/about_us/

THE TWO MINISTRIES IN EACH CATEGORY THAT GET THE MOST VOTES WILL RECEIVE ¼ OF THE TITHE.

Annual Meeting Potluck



St. Philip's annual business meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2 at 10:45 am with a potluck lunch to follow.

Those planning to share in the potluck lunch are asked to bring something according to the following:

Last names beginning with...

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

Questions about the potluck may be directed to Camille Nelson, Fellowship Ministry chair.

Praise Worship

Over the past two years, St. Philip's has offered a Praise Worship experience once a month as an alternative to the traditional worship service format. The Praise Worship service is usually scheduled for the first Sunday of the month. However, there are times when the date is changed for special events or when guest praise musicians are available to lead worship. This type of service is more informal with the pastor not wearing a traditional robe. The modern version of the Lord's Prayer is prayed and in place of traditional liturgy and hymns, contemporary music is sung. For those unfamiliar with praise music, this has been a learning experience. However, with repetition we are becoming familiar with these songs and singing praise to the Lord with strong voices! There are many people in our congregation who appreciate having the opportunity to worship in this format, and so we will continue offering it. Your patience in the process of learning new songs is appreciated. Comments are welcome.



PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Geier will never send you a text or email asking for money or "a discreet favor."

If you ever receive such a message from someone pretending to be Pastor Geier, please call the church office and report it.

High School Fellowship Event

We will have our first High School Fellowship event of the new year on Wednesday, January 15 from 7:00-8:30 pm at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. There will be options to carpool together from St. Philip's, or meet on site. This event is open to any high school students (10th - 12th), and any parents that may wish to join and help pack meals. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please email Nick, Interim Director of CYF Ministry, at nickc@splchastings.org.

Bake Sale

On November 23 St. Philip's conducted its annual Bake, Soup and more recently Quilt Sale. The bake sale included lefse which drew interest along with the sale's reputation as having valued goods for sale. Proceeds from the sale were \$5,645, the highest ever.



People arrived at start time and vigorously selected what they wanted

David Weisser was the designated master soup maker of all four varieties



Geneva Weisser is helping Wes Ask empty a roaster of soup into the LAST cup



A large number of quilts were also sold that day and in the week that followed

Thank You to the members of St. Philip's who supported our Soup, Bake and Quilt Sale on Saturday, November 23. Many, many people contributed many, many hours to make this one-day event a success: lefse makers, vegetable peelers and choppers, cooks and support staff, bakers, quilt presenters, set-up and clean-up crew, sale workers, and all others who lent a hand. Thanks to the members of the congregation who came to buy goods at the sale. A critical part of this sale is the 'word of mouth' of all the members of the congregation who told somebody else about the sale – THANK YOU! A huge shout-out to Lista for all her logistical support, including communication and signs. In addition to the baked and canned goods donated by our members, we sold over one hundred sixty packages of lefse and thirty-three gallons of soup! We raised \$5,645 in just 3 ½ short hours (and Sunday morning, of course!)

For the second year we had a very exciting QUILT SALE sponsored by the Do Days crew. They offered thirty-nine quilts of various sizes – from wall hangings to queen size. Of special interest were some 'burp cloths' made by Ruth Jackson and offered at the sale. While some sales are still pending, we know that eighteen quilts and two burp cloths found new, loving homes, for a total (to date) of \$2,260. (This amount is separate from the bake/soup sale total above.) We want to offer huge thanks to all those who brought fabric, made quilts, bought quilts, helped with set-up and takedown, staffed the display and sales, and all the rest that made this special part of the sale a success.

As in the past, "Thrivent Action," a program through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gave us a \$250 credit card to purchase supplies. The St. Philip's WELCA organization (Women of the ELCA) uses the profits from the Saturday sale to provide Bible story books for our 3-year olds, Bibles for our 3rd graders, help with tuition for a female college student in Tanzania, and various other mission projects, including disaster relief. THANK YOU AGAIN!

Susan Cruse, Deborah Dreher, Pam Hoffman, Kathy Stockman, and Geneva & David Weisser, bake/soup sale co-chairs, Jennie Thomas, Bernita Weber Do-Days Co-Facilitators and Carolyn Schaar for wide-ranging publicity



Sunday School Classes 2nd, 3rd and 4th Grade

These smiling Sunday School students are excited about this season of Advent. After reading the account of the birth of Jesus, they created this bulletin board showing angels bringing the good news to the shepherds and their sheep in the field at night. They also tried on some costumes in anticipation of their Christmas pageant.



Back row L-R: Sophia, Elijah, Espen,
Max, Stella, Bernita
Front row L-R: Annabella, Mackenzie,
Gordon, Hazel, Marjorie

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The first Sunday in Advent means the first candle of the four-candle wreath and its meaning is read by a church family. Jen Klos shares the reading with her children Connor and Mackenzie.



Pastor Geier is posing a question to the children gathered around him on the first Sunday in Advent.

The lighting of the second Advent candle was on December 8. Annette Raimann and her son Corben are seen lighting the candle while Becky Raimann, the grandmother reads the candle's meaning.



Derrick and Samantha Warnecke served as lighters of the third Advent candle which represented LOVE.

Philadazzle Christmas Around the World

Philadazzle 2024, ushered in the Advent season on December 1. Fellowship and dinner was enjoyed by seventy-five guests. Following dinner, pianist Chris Falteisek entertained us with a delightful multimedia concert with stories, personal slides and videos to accompany each piece. Thanks goes to emcee, Natalie Carda; John Diischer, sound board; and our very dedicated committee: Gladys Campbell, Deb Frandrup, Margaret Goderstad, Raul Jackson, Lois Twedt, David and Geneva Weisser and Lois Wroge.



Deb Frandrup served as a lead person in the evening's success



Paul and Karen Swanstrom enjoying their pre-dinner beverage



Scout Troop 9023 assembled beverages for distribution



Margaret Goderstad is holding the pre-sold tickets and she also served as publicity person



Natalie Carda served as emcee during the dinner hour and introduced the evening's program which was a wonderful evening of piano selections of Christmas around the world



Pre-dinner socializing was in the narthex. Pictured are Karen Elliott along with Marge and Gary Evenson and Carolyn Schaar.

Stewardship Sunday Festivity

On December 8, the congregation observed Stewardship Sunday under the theme "Abiding in God's Abundance." Pledges and Time and Talent forms were brought forward by those in attendance. To date, eighty-four pledge cards and sixty-four Time and Talent forms were dedicated. Forms will continue to come in through December.



A nice crowd of one hundred twenty enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast provided by the Stewardship Ministry Team plus additional volunteers.



Pictured kitchen volunteers making pancakes and serving them were Lee Williams and Chad Carda. Additional kitchen volunteers were Bruce Arndtson, Kent Hoffman, Tim Preston, Mary Rock, Al Todnem, Kurt Zabel. The set-up team working on Saturday were Jeannie Evans, Pam Hoffman, Glenda Schnirring, Al and Patty Todnem and Beth Vaughan. Sam Willis provided the pancake mix and provided a grill.



Keeping Connected

Greetings from Jim and Apryl Wagner!

We would like to wish you a New Year filled with joy, success, and endless possibilities. May 2025 bring you peace, good health and unforgettable moments and exciting adventures ahead.



Jim and I both grew up and graduated from Hastings High School. We met through mutual friends in 1990, and we got married in March of 1991, time flies when you are having fun with someone you love. Jim and I love to travel and always look forward to our winter vacation as well as our summer fishing trips with our neighbors.

After Jim graduated from high school, he went through a carpentry trade program then worked for several years in the field building homes and decks prior to starting with a contracting company at Flint Hills Resources. In 1992, Jim started his thirty+ career at Flint Hills Resources. He worked in various positions to include safety, pump mechanic, insulator, and operations. Jim was also on the Flint Hills volunteer fire department for over twenty years. Jim retired almost three years ago from Flint Hills and has been enjoying retirement ever since. He keeps busy with house projects and is an amazing cook.

I was originally from Albert Lea and our family moved to Hastings when I was in fourth grade. After high school I was planning to go to college at UW-River Falls, but at the last minute I changed my mind and joined the Air National Guard. I had an amazing twenty-six+ career with and retired two years ago. During my tenure with the guard, I deployed in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraq Freedom and a highlight of my career was being able to participate in the Norwegian exchange where we trained with the Norwegian Army for two weeks. I also worked full-time in the HR office for several years prior to transferring to the Department of Agriculture where I currently work as a Supervisor Human Resources Specialist over a benefits section. I am a graduate of Concordia University, St. Paul with a BA in Organizational Management, and a MA in Organization Management and Communication with HR emphasis.

Jim and I were blessed with two sons Josh and Cody. Our oldest son Josh passed away July 10, 2017, after

a five-year battle with cancer. For those who knew Josh, would say he was sweet, kind, and selfless. Throughout his five-year battle with cancer he remained a generous person, always eager to lend a hand. He had an infectious positive energy and a smile for everyone. Josh proudly graduated from UW-River Falls in December 2016 with a degree in Communication Studies. He always lived by his motto, "Giving up isn't an Option." Josh made such an impact with his professors at college that they reached out to us and asked if we would support a scholarship in his name. To support the Josh Wagner Memorial Scholarship Fund, we put on several golf tournaments and donated the money to his fund. Each year two Communication Studies students receive \$1,000 to put towards their education.

Our youngest son Cody turned thirty this year. We are incredibly proud of him. After high school he attended Inver Hills Community College and graduated with his associate degree. He furthered his education by attending UW-River Falls and graduated in December 2016 with a degree in Business Administration. Cody works as a state employee in maintenance at the Minnesota Air National Guard base and absolutely loves it. Cody married his high school sweetheart Alyssa July 21, 2017. Cody and Alyssa live Farmington and have two children, Teagan Joy (3) and Cullen Joshua who was born in November. We cherish our family time together making memories and love our new names Papa and Mimi.

We are truly blessed that God had led us to our new church home, St. Philip's, where we have been attending the past six+ months and look forward to many years of worship.

Hello, from Gerri Lundby,

I do the recruiting for these personal stories so, once in a while, I write one also. But before I do that, I want and need to give all the writers my heart-filled THANK YOU! Some of you hesitated - but when finished you told me that you had fun doing it.



In the beginning, some of you saw me coming and tried to get away from me. I just have to laugh because now the stories keep coming and I don't have to twist any arms to get them. I even had one person say to me "It's about time - I wondered when you were going to CALL ME"? I love it!

NOW, I want you to go one step further! When I ask people if they read these monthly family stories, they ALL (Well, at least 99% of them.) answer in the affirmative! Back to the next step - when you read the stories, look for a POINT OF CONNECTION - a city, a place of work, a common friend, a sibling - the list could go on and on! When you find a point of connection, call the person who wrote the story and have a conversation about the connection. I guarantee that it will lead to other connections and that leads to friendship. THAT is a big purpose for the whole shebang! The next time you see that person in church or at Cub or Ace, etc. you can greet that person as a friend, not an acquaintance. AMEN!

HOME is a word that I love! Most people love it! There are many 'homes' in our lives - our own homes, no matter the size or the value - it could also be a rental. This is the one we usually think of when we say the word. Let's try some others - our parental home, our in-law's home, our children's homes, our friend's homes, our work home, etc. A MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS OUR CHURCH HOME!

St. Philip's Lutheran Church - or, as I usually say SPLC is our church home. I walk through those doors and immediately, I feel like I'm coming home! It is a fantastic feeling! Fifty years ago, Ed and I and our two young daughters moved to Hastings. First on our agenda was to find a church. We visited SPLC right away because, in Crookston, our pastor and neighbor and friend, Skip Otto, asked us to because his parents were members there. We did just that - though I had hesitations because I wanted to join a church where I was just a number. I didn't want to get involved in 'church work!' WELL - everyone was so warm and friendly! STILL HERE!

I have some health issues and I need help getting in and out of the building! Someone is always there to help me! People helping people - that's what a family does - that's what my church family does! THANK YOU - I AM BLESSED!



Sunday School Program

On December 15, a program, "Silent Night, Holy Night" was performed by fifteen Sunday School children. It was well done and very enjoyable. Many thanks to the teachers and Kelsey Wormley and her daughters who supported the children's singing and message delivery.



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

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 10:40 am

Sunday School at 10:40 am

affix label here

TIME DATED MATERIAL

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St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Hastings, MN 55033

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