

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

December 2020

Virtual Sunday School Christmas Program

December 20

Online and at 9:30 am In-Person Worship Service

Christmas Eve

Communion via Zoom at 11:00 am

Worship Services

Posted Online at 10:00 am

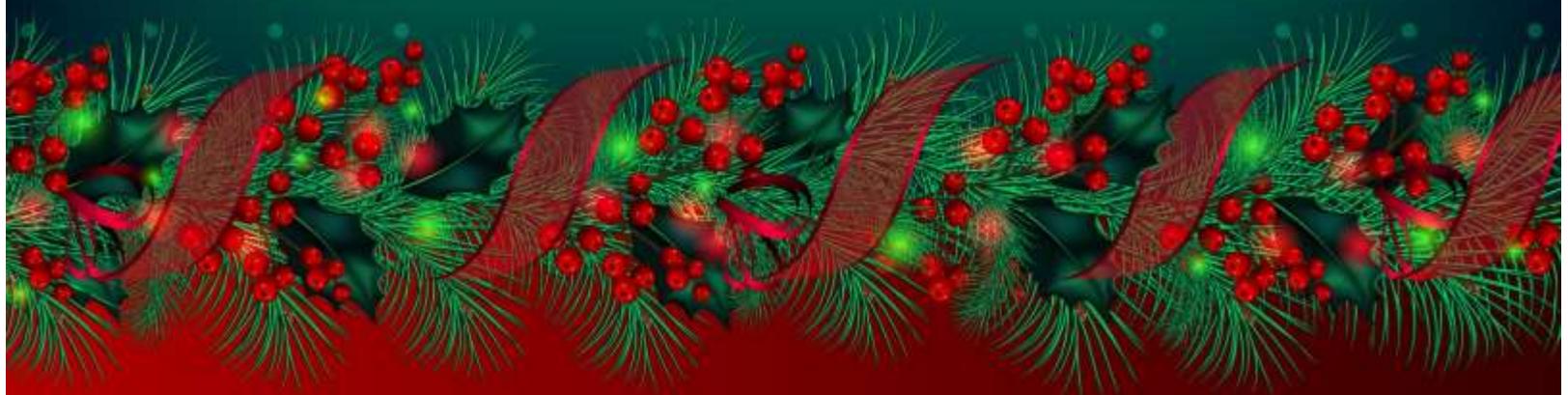
and

In-Person at 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00 pm

A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 27

Online and In-Person

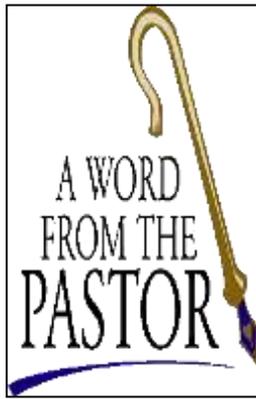


In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

Luke 2:1-6

From the Christmas Gospel Lesson

So far, this Advent season is not going at all the way I would like for it to go. I say this knowing that as I write this, Advent hasn't even started yet. We are still in the midst of celebrating Christ the King and the culmination of another liturgical year. For most of us this Thanksgiving was not a time of gathering with extended family. In fact, we may have had to spend some extra effort in naming things for which we were thankful during this time of pandemic. (Make no mistake, there is still plenty of blessings even as we face challenges and isolation.)



Sunday, November 29 starts a new year for us with the first Sunday of Advent where we will be starting Advent and celebrating the affirmation of baptism for six of our 10th grade siblings in Christ (which will be recorded earlier.)

I am excited for this service even as it is not the service any of us anticipated a year ago and we are trying to figure out how to best do the things that are most important to us. Advent is a season of hope and preparation and anticipation. But I am finding myself already obsessing over how unprepared I feel.

Ellen and John and Nathan and Lista are each figuring out new ways of faithfully serving you. I have joked that we have been spending so much time "thinking outside the box" that we couldn't even find the box anymore.

Our Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, Sarah Bennett is working very hard on our virtual Sunday School Christmas program. This will require extra time and energy for our children and their parents, all whom have been stretched thin and challenged by distanced learning and isolation. Part of me wonders why people who are already overwhelmed with preparations for Christmas agree to the task of staging an amateur Christmas program?

Perhaps it is because the children become the Word for us. They are little things, the children of our congregation, but they tell the story in a way that means a lot. They make mystery accessible and they give us a glimpse of glory. God's version of glory is not a polished and popular glory. It wasn't that first Christmas and has rarely been since. The words are not always just right, the actors stand in the wrong spots, songs may be off-key, and the crown is tilted on the wise man's head. But in our children, we see the Word alive and close enough to love easily, and so we are drawn into the amazing mystery that so often is best communicated by children.

Thanks be to God for children and Christmas and the grace that comes to us through all the little things that God sends our way.

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS



December 6	Isaiah 61:1-11
December 13	Luke 1:5-17
December 20	Luke 1:26-56
December 27	Lessons and Carols



Preschool Chatter

Let just start with this quote ~ “preschoolers are the best!” This has been a crazy year full of changes and unknowns, but when you walk into a class of 3-5 year olds, Covid kind of disappears for three hours a day. Yes, we wear masks, wash our hands a thousand times a day, and clean like crazy. But the joy that these young child bring to the world is awesome! We spent the month of November learning about scarecrows, manners, and the meaning of Thanksgiving. We also got a special look at construction crews and equipment when the new roof was being installed. Such a fun teachable moment.

The preschool was able to apply for and receive money from the state’s COVID-19 Public Health Funds for Child Care. This money will be used for a wide variety of things to help our small program cover some of the COVID-19 costs we have incurred over the last few months. All money we receive from the state will have to be spent by December 30. Staff is looking carefully into the best ways to use this money.

It saddens us greatly to have to cancel our big evening Christmas program this year. The staff are working very hard to put together some other fun activities and recordings to send home to our families. We will make it fun and exciting, just in a different way.

We know this holiday season will look different for us all, but it is our prayer for you that you still enjoy the reason for the season. Jesus is born and, no matter what, He is always with us!

Christmas blessings to you all,

*Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors*

- AMONG OUR OWN -

Congratulations to...

- Walter Olaf Haltvick**, son of Nick and Vanessa Haltvick, blessings on his baptism
- Lucas Samuel Kattula**, son of Mike and Katie (Hellen) Kattula, blessings on his baptism
- Jamie and Erin Stevens** on their 10th wedding anniversary on December 11
- Rich and LuAnn Roiger** on their 20th wedding anniversary on December 30
- Nathan and Sasha Griner** on the birth of their baby boy Eamon James Griner born November 16

Sympathies to...

- Raul and Ruth Jackson and family** as they mourn the death of their nephew Joe Jackson.
- Dawn Gourlie and Jennifer Klos families** as they mourn the death of their mother/grandmother Carolyn Graap.

Thank You...

Thank You for the support shown through cards, flowers, generous memorial gifts, words of encouragement and continued prayers during Sherry’s recent illness and passing. We have been truly touched by your kindness, caring, and unconditional love during our time of grief.

The Family of Sherry Akins

John and Ellen Diischer would like to sincerely thank their St. Philip's family for the prayers, cards and memorials as they continue to mourn the loss of Ellen's special sister, Karen. They would also like to thank everyone for prayers of support and healing. Your thoughtfulness and care are deeply appreciated. Thank you.

GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE OCTOBER 2020 YTD

	Actual 10/20 YTD	Budget 10/20 YTD	Actual 10/19 YTD
General and Misc. Funds			
Income YTD	\$402,259	\$446,538	\$390,099
Expenses YTD	\$390,639	\$485,678	\$420,184
Over (short) YTD	(\$24,748)	(\$39,140)	(\$30,084)
Capital Fund			
	\$139,133	\$150,000	\$131,159

ADVENT ACTIVITY BAGS AND FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Similar to what we did for at-home Vacation Bible School, St. Philip's is giving out activity bags full of crafts and family devotions that people can enjoy at all ages! Email Sarah Bennet, Director of Children, Youth and Family at sarahb@splchastings.org if you would like one!





We are looking to offer three services on Christmas Eve at 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00 pm. Seating will be limited to 75 people per service and families will need to pre-register to make sure that we have enough room to accommodate everyone who wishes to come. Please call the office to register or register at the following online link for the worship service you would like to attend: <https://forms.gle/fgNwmAQU265nKNrF8>.

The services will be shorter than normal as we still will not have congregational singing or speaking. However, we are planning on closing the service by going outside and singing "Silent Night" and another hymn. It will be different but what has not been different these last nine months?

PLUS...online communion worship will be at 11:00 am on Christmas Eve. The link to join is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82411253160?pwd=eGFjTnJudzZlWTdmTzlhUzdXTEJsZz09>

Please note that it is a definite possibility that the governor and the Minnesota Department of Health may recommend or mandate that churches suspend in-person worship prior to December 24. Should this happen we will comply with the state guidelines and direct everyone to (see below!)



YES, there will be an online Christmas Eve Service available on our YouTube channel with a link on our Facebook page and our church website. Worshipping online remains the safest option for everyone, especially those with compromised immune systems or who have one of the risk factors associated with COVID-19. The most important thing is to stay as safe as possible and know you are loved!

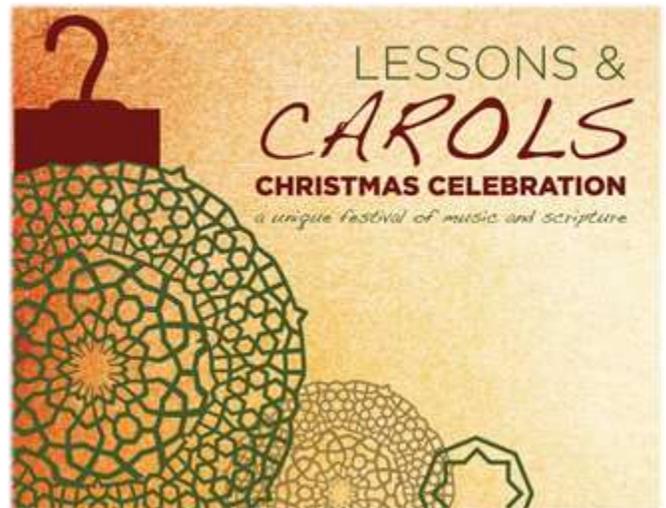
VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

A virtual Sunday School Christmas pageant called *Do Not Be Afraid* is in the process of being made.

Cast members are recording their scenes separately from home, and then they will be put all together for one video that will be shown during the December 20 online and in-person worship service! You won't want to miss it.



A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FROM THE SOUTH CONFERENCE



On December 27 St. Philip's Lutheran Church will be participating (virtually) in a service of lessons and carols with twelve other congregations in the south conference of our synod! In addition to hearing our choir sing, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming", we will unite in Spirit with sisters and brothers from Hastings and Randolph and Rosemount and Apple Valley and Eagan and Farmington and Lakeville.

Our worship will be available on our YouTube and Facebook pages and for those who come to in-person worship on the 27th, it will be broadcast there as well. At this point, Pastor Geier is planning on taking a vacation that Sunday.

2020 HASTINGS FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT SHARE UPDATE

1. Adopt-a-Family is the major outreach to provide Christmas gifts to families with children. With a huge community response, as of this writing the slots for the families in need were filled. The



website did say to continue to check back, as each day more families sign up. If you choose a family, you will arrange with Hastings Family Service (HFS) for delivery of the gifts, **St. Philip's will not be a donation site.** Hastings Family Service website is www.hastingsfamilyservice.org.

- Holiday Meal Donations of \$30 or gift cards will be accepted to help provide holiday meals for any family, whether just adults or with children. Thanks to Margaret Goderstad that through Thrivent Financial St. Philip's received a \$250 grant towards the meals. We ask members of the congregation to also donate financially towards the food needs. Please send checks or gift cards directly to HFS. Address is Hastings Family Service, 301 2nd Street East, Hastings, MN 55033
- Volunteers may still be needed at HFS in collection or distribution of food or gifts. Check with the website for times available.

Thanks again for helping our community at this holiday season! We hope in future years we'll again be able to have food and gift tree collections for our neighbors in need.

Camille Nelson, Fellowship chair
651-437-2742

YEAR-END GIVING is open through December 31, 2020. Mailed envelopes postmarked by December 31 will be included on your 2020 giving statement. Vanco online giving will be included through December 31, and the church office drop box is available until 3:00 pm December 31.



SECRET SANTA SHOP

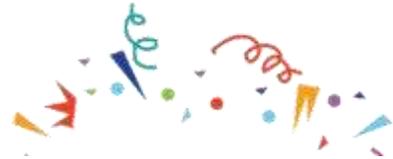
Due to COVID-19, the format of Secret Santa Shop has changed. HFS supplies us with families and children. This year volunteers will be selecting a gift for each family member and these will be put together in one bag. The families will drive up to OSEL and get their bag of gifts. Gift donations are new/gently used items \$10.00 and less.

Suggestions include: gift cards, non-advertising mugs, plain Christmas balls, candy, knickknacks, sports memorabilia. A collection box is outside the office November 1-30.



We need 7-8 St. Philip's volunteers from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm on December 5 to sort and package gifts. Please call Vicki Pavlish at 651-437-1527 if you are willing to do this.

PRESCHOOL AWARDED GRANT



This fall, the preschool applied for a Child Care Services Grant from Minnesota Child Care Aware / Think Small that would provide reimbursements of up to \$2,500 worth of approved items. We chose to request the grant for curriculum, toys and learning materials. Amazingly, our grant request was approved for \$2,495. We do have to match 25% of our own funds, which we already earned at our fall family fun night!

Through the grant and our matching funds, we received the entire preschool classroom set of Learning Without Tears curriculum (aka-handwriting without tears), which has numerous materials for teaching reading, writing, language, literacy, numbers and math. We also received two classroom sets for Conscious Discipline, a social/emotional curriculum. Additionally, we will be receiving a new Lego table, a stand up magnetic write/wipe board, and toys/learning tools to promote literacy, diversity, and social/emotional development. We are excited to begin implementing these items which will help us to better prepare our preschoolers for kindergarten!

HOME CANNED ITEMS FOR SALE

Even though the annual WELCA Bake Sale was cancelled this year due to COVID-19 you can still get some great home canned items! Quantities are limited! Don't hesitate!



- ❖ Raspberry Jelly, Grape Jelly, Strawberry Jam, Peach Jam: \$5/8 oz jar
- ❖ Jumbled Jelly and Quarantine Jelly – both mixed fruit flavor: \$5/8 oz jar
- ❖ Jazzy Jalapeno Jelly (made with light apple juice flavor), Jeweled Jalapeno Jelly (made with light mixed red fruit flavor): Both mild jalapeno heat. Serve as an appetizer with cream cheese and crackers: \$5/8 oz jar
- ❖ Broth: Ham, Chicken, Turkey, Beef: \$5/quart
- ❖ Bread and Butter pickles: \$5/pint
- ❖ Sweet Cucumber Relish: \$5/pint
- ❖ Dill Pickles: \$5/pint, \$8/quart
- ❖ Black Bean and Corn Salsa: \$5/pint

If you are interested, call David Weisser at 651-302-9901. Your items will be labeled with your name and put on the coat rack at St. Philip's across from the office. Make checks payable to WELCA. Cash payments should go in an envelope labeled WELCA. Please drop your payment in the lock box outside the office.

COMMUNION KITS

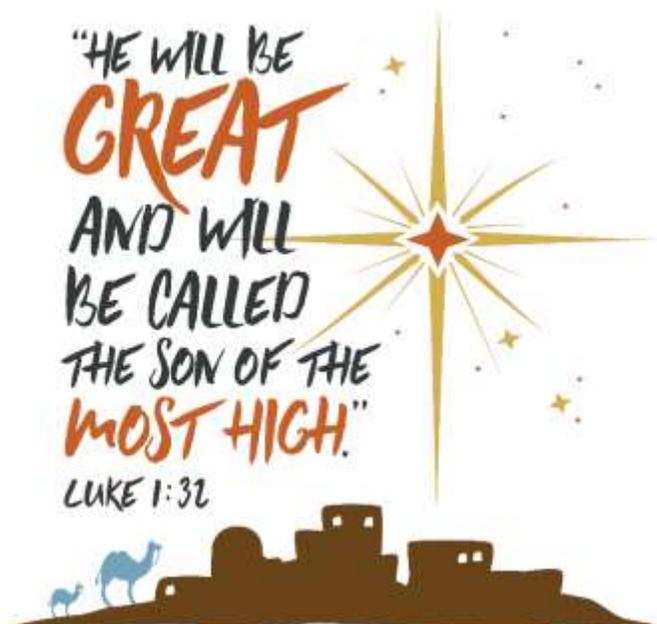
Communion kits are available for pick up at the Welcome Center during regular office hours. The kit contains a small disposable cup of grape juice packaged with a wafer, sealed on the top. These can be used for in-home communion via Zoom on Sundays at 11:00 am. You may use your own bread and wine or juice if you prefer. Please join us! The service opens at 10:50 am on Sundays.



COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

A columbarium is a structure with compartments to hold the ashes of our loved ones. The team continues to move forward with this project that was approved at the annual meeting in February. In the last newsletter we reported that a vendor was selected and the columbarium would be located on the east side of the church property. Forms were created for policies as well as presales. A presentation was made to the church council and we were given their blessing to begin presales. In November, the Planning Commission and City Council approved our application for a special use permit to build the columbarium. We also selected a landscaper and created an application form.

In December, presales to lease the compartments or niches will begin. Please see page 12 in this newsletter for details. Additionally, a table will be set up in the narthex which will include a rendering of the columbarium and a sample niche. For those who are interested in leasing a niche, a packet of information with an application will be provided. Feel free to call Gary McDougall at 651-216-7213 or Judy Hansen at 612-600-1209 with any questions.



Stewardship

A Way of Life



All households and confirmed teens received a packet describing St. Philip's invitation to express one's response for God's abundance through a planned financial offering. The appeal requests a one-year response for both the *General Fund* and the *Mortgage Fund*.

Returning the commitment card is very important. For those who choose to not declare a specific response, it is asked that you simply indicate that on the blank called "other".

St. Philip's thrives on the giving of the time, talents and financial resources of its members and friends.

Please remit your card in its postage paid envelope by December 6, as that is Commitment Sunday. Cards will be welcomed and appreciated through the month of December. God bless you as you complete your responses.

Stewardship Ministry Team, Gerry Cardinal, Jeannie Evans, Gerri Lundby, Dan Strehlow, Al Todnem, Sam Willis and Glenda Schnirring, chair. Pastor Geier, serves as the team's constant support.

Christmas Eve Schedule

Online Worship Posted at 10:00 am

(Online Worship Posted on SPLCHastings.org website, Facebook and YouTube at "St. Philip's Lutheran Church Hastings MN" available any time after 10:00 am for your viewing)

In-Person Worship Service

1:00 pm

3:00 pm

5:00 pm

Seating will be limited to 75 people per service

Please call the office to pre-register or sign up at the following online link for the worship service you would like to attend:

<https://forms.gle/fqNwmAQU265nKNrF8>.

NOT YOUR ORDINARY VOLUNTEER WORK

When sanctuary ceiling light bulbs burn out, it's not a good day. Replacing each light takes time, and the courage of ascending a very tall ladder. On a recent day, a team of Building and Grounds volunteers gave three hours of their time supporting Steve Wolverton who courageously goes to the ceiling's peak. Nine bulbs needed replacing. Four men got it accomplished. A hearty thanks is extended to all of them.



Steve Wolverton, (ladder climber) had the support of Bill Pavlish, Paul Swanstrom and Denny Kohn on a recent 3-hour, nine bulb replacement in the sanctuary



JUST ASKING. . .**Do You Use Any of this Stuff?**

It is our desire for our newsletter to provide everyone in our congregation with news and materials to assist you on your faith journey. This includes several inserts. However, not everyone needs or wants everything. To that end we are asking you let the church office know if you use any of the following:

- Printed Worship Bulletins for Online Worship
- KidStuff Worship Bulletins for Children
- God's Story, Our Story Weekly Devotional

For the record, we are glad to continue including them in our newsletter. Yet we also are conscious of wishing to be good stewards of all our resources. If only a few people are using them, we might just make a separate mailing to those individuals or families.

Please take a moment to call (651-437-6541) or email the office (listak@splchastings.org) if you use any of the above inserts so that we can make sure that everyone gets everything they need during these challenging times.

ALSO. . .

We provide CDs of our worship services to several of our members for whom worshipping in person is not safe and who do not have internet access to participate in our online worship.

If you or someone you know would like a CD or DVD of our worship services, please call or email the office and we will gladly add to our list!

**ST. PHILIP'S MADE A \$1,000.00 INVESTMENT IN FIGHTING HUNGER**

Because there have been much fewer requests for assistance, the balance in Pastor Geier's discretionary benevolence fund continued to climb due to the continued



generosity of our congregation. Firmly believing that those funds are designated to help our neighbors, Pastor Geier, (with the blessing of our church council), sent two \$500.00 checks. One to Hastings Family Service and one to the Hastings United Way Food-4-Kids program. Both of these local ministries have had a tremendous increase in need for aid for children and families in our community and the money wasn't feeding anyone while it was sitting in our checkbook.

Having said that, we did not empty the fund. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact Pastor Geier. These funds have been used to help purchase prescriptions, pay for utilities, car and furnace repairs and many other things. As policy, we have not used them for rent or damage deposits. We are here to help!

NEW ROOF FOR ST. PHILIP'S

During a damaging hail storm in July of 2020, it was determined that St. Philip's' roof surface sustained qualifying damage. Insurance coverage provided the major source of its replacement. The church's expanded structure was completed in 2012.

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE WE'RE APART



Hello from Gary and Alice McDougall

Fifty plus years ago we packed up most of our belongings and along with our 2-year old son moved south of Hastings into a homemade pop-up

trailer to build our first home. It was an interesting summer

We were both teachers. We met as beginning teachers in a small town in southwest Minnesota. Gary taught chemistry, the last 30 years at Park Senior High in Cottage Grove. Alice taught elementary vocal music, the last 10 years at Kennedy School in Hastings. We lived in our first home for 17 years. As time went on we bought a cornfield north of Hastings and started a small apple orchard.

We have two children. Jeff teaches at the War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He just completed his 30th year in the army. Jennifer teaches vocal music at Mayo High School in Rochester, Minnesota. She has been there for 26 years. We have 5 lovely and interesting grandchildren; each one is a joy for us.

We both grew up in small towns, so choosing St. Philip's was an easy choice for us as it was a very small congregation 50 years ago. We love being a part of St. Philip's, often saying it is our extended family. We have enjoyed becoming acquainted with many of our new members. Many of our people have become almost lifelong friends and have supported us through the good and not so good times. Through the years we have tried to serve in many different ways other than worship knowing that is the way we can create a sense of belonging for ourselves.

We miss worshipping together but we choose to worship online and feel that by staying to ourselves is what we can do in our little way in keeping us and others from the virus. Meanwhile everyone has to do what they feel is right for them. We can still keep in contact with one another by phones, online and prayers and whatever other way works for each of us. We look forward to the time when we can all be together again. Hopefully it will be soon.

Hi All,

I am Steve Wolverton. I must begin by saying that I grew up in the US Air Force. My dad had made the USAF his career and retired upon his return to the States from a year in Korea in 1972. My older sister married in September of 1972 and Joyce was her Matron of Honor. In 1963 my folks bought a house in Richfield when my dad was transferred to Iceland for a year. Upon his return, we moved three more times before returning in 1969.



That's when I met Joyce. She lived two houses up the street, was married with two kids. My sister and I would babysit those kids until I went in the Air Force myself. After four years I returned to Minnesota and settled in Richfield. Joyce and her family had moved to Lakeville in the meantime. She divorced her husband in the late 70's after their daughter married. Her son went live with his dad. Joyce got in touch with me in the early 80's and we dated off and on for a few years. Joyce agreed to be my bride in June of 1985, we married in October of that year at House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield. When I married Joyce, I gained a bride, two kids; her son Brian, on leave from the Army 'gave her away', and her daughter Tracy, Matron of Honor in our wedding. I also gained four grandsons, (#2 grandson was our ring bearer). Joyce was always 'Oma' to our grandsons, and I became 'grandpa'. We later added great-grand kids (we have eight), and I am happy to say they all call me 'grandpa'.

Joyce and I moved to Dakota County in 1991. We bought a house a couple of miles south of Coates on the west side of highway 52 to be near her daughter. For several years we attended Sunday services with my grandmother at Martin Luther Manor, a nursing home in Bloomington. My grandmother passed away in 1999 at the age of 100. We continued going to services at Martin Luther Manor with my grandmother's roommate and friend for a while then began a search for a 'home' church.

We attended Sunday services at several Churches between Rosemount, Eagan, and Hastings. We attended a Christmas Candlelight Service at St. Philip's and were extremely impressed. We both liked the friendliness of the small church and Pastor Ed. After attending a few more times, we decided this was

our new church home. Glenda Schnirring was instrumental in getting us connected. We enjoyed watching the young people grow into young adults and even beginning families of their own.

Joyce became involved with the garage sale early on, (I would help when I could until I retired, then became more active). She also helped with the Bake Sale while I was off hunting. I serve on the Buildings and Grounds committee and try to be available for projects when called upon. The expansion that enlarged our church a few short years ago expanded the opportunities for service and many activities.

2020 has been a tough year on everyone. Joyce was diagnosed with colon cancer in late February and after a short battle, passed away June 21. Our daughter Tracy (now in Isanti) and son Brian (living in Ireland for the last twenty years) were able to stay with us in our home during this time. We were happy to have Pastor Geier drop by a couple of times until the COVID-19 thing came along, when visits became restricted. We were glad that Sunday services were available on YouTube, as it allowed us to remain somewhat connected. Many thanks to our outstanding Prayer Team, especially Sue Retka. Our faith in our God sustained us during this ordeal as I hope and pray your faith will lift you up and give you strength. I am also grateful for my St. Philip's family and for all your support. It is genuinely appreciated.

May the Peace of our Lord be with you all.

In September of 1965, I first laid eyes on Farid Saed as he played accordion at the Freshman Talent Show, University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa. I assumed he was a music professor. He didn't cross my path again until the last day of my freshman year, when a seminary student and friend of mine insisted that he introduce me to Farid. Farid was coming across the quadrangle, approaching us, wearing a three-piece suit, and carrying a black leather brief case. I still thought he was a professor. My friend introduced me to Farid, who took out a "little black book" asked me my name and wrote it down. Watching him put the book back in his vest pocket I excused myself thinking no more about this guy called Farid. I didn't think much about anything in 1965 except for working and studying. I



was the first of my family to attend college, and I really knew nothing about what I needed to do except work hard, figure out where dollars would come from, and in the process not disappoint those that were responsible for getting me to Dubuque.

Returning early to campus in 1966, I had been hired to be a resident assistant. My pastor at the time, Dr. Gene Siekmann, not only assisted in my going to college, but assured me that I would be able to afford it with various jobs that he helped set up for me, so in addition to resident assistant, I worked in the library, and was a secretary to the language department. My summer job through college was always as a summertime replacement for the secretary of my home church. Church has always been important in my life. I was baptized, confirmed and raised in the Presbyterian Church in Marshall, Minnesota. It was the same church in which my grandmother was married, my mother was married and as fate would have it, I was married to Farid in the summer of 1969.

Upon returning to campus, the first person I encountered was Farid, who had come back early to find housing and prepare for his sophomore year. although I attempted to avoid him, it didn't work. He was persistent. We had a Coke together in September I invited him to join our family in November for Thanksgiving and started dating that December. He came home with me for Christmas, and this year will mark our 54th Christmas together.

Although Farid grew up in the village of Hamadan in the Northwest part of Iran, we had more in common than either of us knew. On one of our early "dates" he asked me to attend church with him. I agreed, thinking that I would have the great experience of attending a mosque. Because Farid was from the Middle East, he had to be Muslim, right? Wrong! He had grown up with American missionaries from the Presbyterian Church! As we pulled up to the church on the other side of Dubuque it was definitely a Presbyterian Church. I saw the announcement that Dr. Durwood Busse would be the guest speaker that day. I knew him. He was a good friend of my pastor in Marshall. We had actually raised money for the mission work in Iran. I found that that Dr. Busse was responsible for Farid attending an American university! Oh my, perhaps God was at work in ways I had never understood before.

We married the summer of 1969. Our first year of marriage was spent in Chicago and Madison, Wisconsin, where I taught and Farid finished school. We moved to Hastings in 1970, where I started

teaching and Farid completed more studies and worked for Control Data. Four years later we began to have children. Everything changed!

We knew we wanted to choose a "family friendly" church, and start connecting more to this community. St. Philip's was our choice, for many reasons, and has remained our choice but most definitely because of the warmth of the members here, and their abilities to reach out and include families. Although Farid's and my cultures were very different, our values were very similar. Family, Faith and Education were first and foremost for both of us. And all of our values would be tested mightily with the fall of the Shah and then the Iranian hostage crisis. I cannot tell you how much it meant to us at that time as many of you reached out to us and our family.

Just before our Natalie was born, and four years later, our daughter, Nadia, we had taken in two teenagers from Iran so they would not be sent into the military and they would have a better opportunity here. Both are now doctors, one in practice in Minnesota, and one in practice and teaching at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Our girls, are now grown, Natalie and her husband, Brian reside in Woodbury. Nadia lives in Minneapolis and has an eight-year-old daughter, Vivienne, who is the joy of our lives; they recently lost husband and father, David due to a serious illness.

Although I cannot name all the wonderful people of St. Philip's, you all work together to exude warmth, welcome, compassion and acceptance. Gerri Lundby sold us our first home, and is always meeting and greeting as if it's her mission in life, and no one does it better. I cannot fail to specifically mention the very effective hugs and smiles from Patty and Al Todnem, Ruth and Raul Jackson, Stacy and Jeff Carlson, the wonderful leadership, vision and persistence of Glenda Schnirring, the 500 card club, and the prayer team, Sue Retka, and Jennie Orr, the booming voice and joy of Pastor Geier and the music that the church and crew of musicians (Ellen, Noreen and Nathan) perform without fail every Sunday and sometimes in between. As members of St. Philip's whoever you are, know that you have made a difference in our lives, with your actions, your voice, your wisdom and your grace.

Farid and Diane Saed

Paul and I joined St. Philip's Lutheran Church in the mid-1970s. I was an LPN working in a clinic setting and Paul was a teacher in the Middle School. Many of our teacher friends were members at St. Philip's and we decided to give it a try. We were met with such warmth by Pat Schultz and others that we felt at home immediately. Now some 40 plus years later St. Philip's IS home.



We have a son Eric who lives in Brooklyn Park with his wife Gail and three children, Brady age 20, Abby age 17, and Evan age 13. Eric is a realtor and Gail works for Target Corp. Our daughter Carrie lives in Port Byron, Illinois with her husband Jim and sons Adam age 17 and Aaron age 13. She home schools both boys and has organized other home schooling moms to share teaching techniques and schedule knowledgeable speakers on specific topics.

For many winters Paul built a luge run going from the driveway out front down the side of the house and winding through the backyard. This was iced down because speed was of the essence. He and John Sanstead were ski instructors at Welch Village for 35 years.

We had a double wide home in Florida that we sold a year ago. Also while there he bought an Ultralight flying wing that looked about 90% complete but took him about 90% more time to complete. Paul's talent for fixing whatever is broken has been put to good use at church and currently he is co-chair of the Building and Grounds Committee.

I have been an offering counter for many years. For 15 years I had the privilege of being wedding coordinator. I have enjoyed working at the garage sales and various other events. Since my retirement I have worked as an election judge but took a pass this year due to the pandemic.

Together Paul and I have sung in the choir since the beginning. We have participated in many groups over the years including the Gourmet Group and Candlelight Buffet. We still belong to the 500 Club. We have taken a few ocean cruises but really prefer river cruises. We also drive for Meals on Wheels.

We pray that our church family stays safe and well knowing that "this too shall pass."

Paul and Karen Swanstrom

St. Philip’s Lutheran Church Columbarium

1401 15th Street West
 Hastings, MN 55033
 651-437-6541



A columbarium is a group of small compartments, or niches, designed to hold the cremated remains (cremains) of deceased loved ones. Each niche is identified by a granite faceplate inscribed with a person’s name, birth date, and death date. The Columbarium will be located east of the church building along Pleasant Drive. Phase One will have 80 niches and includes a peace garden for visiting family and friends. Three additional phases of 80 niches each will take St. Philip’s well into the future.

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Eligibility

Church members, spouses or domestic partners, and family members, such as father, mother, brother sister, children, and grandchildren are eligible. Other individuals may be approved by the Columbarium Team.

3 Levels of Pricing

The pricing of the niches has been set at three levels, depending on location. All niches include two brass urns and engraving on the columbarium faceplate for up to two person’s cremains. Engraving on the two brass urns is not included. Each niche is 12x12x12 inches. Urns other than those furnished may be used in the space allowed.

- Niches in Row A and Row B are \$2,500
- Niches in Row C and Row D are \$2,200
- Niches in Row E are \$1,900

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
A																
B																
C																
D																
E																

Niches are identified by letter of row followed by number of column, such as A1

For more details, contact Gary McDougall at 651-216-7213 or Judy Hansen at 612-600-1209.

Team members: Gary McDougall, chair; Judy Hansen; Pam Hoffman;
 Tim Preston; and Danna Schultz

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Jen H., earns for hockey

This will be an ongoing fundraiser for St. Philip's Preschool so we can purchase additional items to enrich our curriculum.

Contact Becky or Lorelei for more information: preschool@splchastings.org

Enrollment Code: ED51C4BL74L78



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St. Philip's Lutheran Church
 1401 West 15th Street
 Hastings, MN 55033

December 2020

651-437-6541
www.splchastings.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 8:30 am Online Worship 9:30 am In-Person Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Communion via Zoom 8:00 pm Boy Scouts (offsite)	7 11:00 am Preschool Chapel 11:20 am Preschool Chapel 5:30 pm OMT 7:00 pm Faith Formation Ministry	8 11:00 am Preschool Chapel 11:20 am Preschool Chapel 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 8:00 pm Prayer Team 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir via Zoom	9 5:30 pm Children's Choir via Zoom 5:30 pm Preschool Ministry 6:45 pm Confirmation Online	10 9:30 am Circle Bible Study 11:00 am Meals on Wheels 7:00 pm Boy Scout Committee Meeting	11	12 8:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Sharing and Caring Hands
13 8:30 am Online Worship 9:30 am In-Person Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Online 11:00 am Communion via Zoom 8:00 pm Boy Scouts	14 8:30 pm Finance Ministry	15 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir via Zoom	16 8:45 pm Confirmation Online	17	18	19 7:00 am Men's Bible Study
20 8:30 am Online Worship 9:30 am In-Person Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Online 11:00 am Communion via Zoom 8:00 pm Boy Scouts	21 6:00 pm Council	22 2:30 pm Staff Meeting	23 NO Preschool 6:45 pm Confirmation Online	24 CHRISTMAS EVE NO Preschool Office Closed 10:00 am Online Worship 11:00 am Communion via Zoom 11:00 am Meals on Wheels 1:00 pm Worship 3:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Worship	25 CHRISTMAS NO Preschool Office Closed	26 8:00 am Women's Bible Study
27 8:30 am Online Worship 9:30 am In-Person Worship 11:00 am Communion via Zoom 8:00 pm Boy Scouts	28 NO Preschool 6:00 pm Adult Spiritual Growth	29 NO Preschool 2:30 pm Staff Meeting	30 NO Preschool 6:45 pm Confirmation Online	31 NO Preschool		

**Worship Leaders
December 2020**

	December 6 9:30	December 13 9:30	December 20 9:30	December 24 Christmas Eve 1:00	December 24 Christmas Eve 3:00	December 24 Christmas Eve 5:00	December 27 9:30
Worship Coordinator	Connie Ball & Mary Rock	Katy Lindberg & Michelle Carlson	Pam Hoffman & Darla Kimmes	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Bob & Susan Cruse
Greeter/Attendance Recorder	Connie Ball & Mary Rock		Pam Hoffman & Darla Kimmes	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Bob & Susan Cruse
Welcome Center							
Usher	Deborah Dreher & Glenda Schnirring	Katy Lindberg & Michelle Carlson	Lance & Lois Twest	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Deborah Dreher & Glenda Schnirring
Lector	Lori Best	Glenda Schnirring	Lance Twest	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed	Glenda Schnirring
Communion Bread	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier	Pastor Geier
Communion Wine							
Acolyte							
Sound Board							
Offering Counters							
Prayer Chapel							
Special Music							

Please check in with the worship coordinators on the Sunday you have a duty. They will answer any questions and let you know if there are any special circumstances that day.

If you are unable to fulfill your assigned spot, please contact others on the schedule and attempt to find your own substitute.

Please let Lista in the church office know of any changes to this schedule (651-437-6541)

St. Philip's Lutheran Church
1401 West 15th Street
Hastings, MN 55033

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ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

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ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1401 West 15th Street

Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541

www.splchastings.org

ST. PHILIP'S PRESCHOOL

www.splchastings.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service:

Online Worship Posted on Facebook and

YouTube on Sundays at 8:30 am

“St. Philip's Lutheran Church Hastings MN”

Social Hour via Zoom at 9:30 am

In-Person Worship Sundays at 9:30 am

Communion via Zoom at 11:00 am

Sunday School:

Sundays Online at 9:30 am

Confirmation:

Wednesdays Online at 6:45 pm