

# 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 2021

August 1

Campfire Bible Study

August 1-6

Garage & Plant Sale Setup

August 2-5

Garage & Plant Sale Donation  
Drop Off

August 7

Garage Sale

August 21

High School Kayak Trip

August 22

New Member Information  
Session

August 26

Blood Drive

August 29

New Member Sunday  
Pie in the Park

August 31

Preschool Orientation

*'Lord, to whom can  
we go? You have  
the words of  
eternal life.*

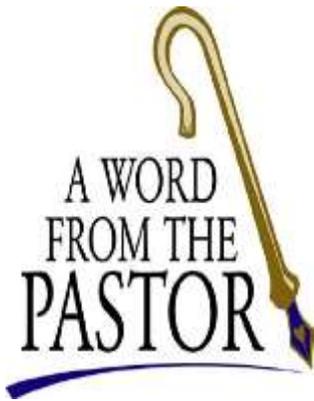
*John 6:68*

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua 24:14-15

*From the first lesson for August 22<sup>nd</sup>*

Life is full of choices it seems. Paper or plastic? Credit, debit, or cash? Go out or stay in? Watch TV or read a book? For some teenagers, deciding on clothing and accessories for an outing requires much forethought and sometimes even a consultation with friends.



Life is full of choices, but we may be thankful that God has already made the most important choice when God chose to save and redeem us through the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ and THEN to grant us the faith through the Holy Spirit to believe in this Good News.

The choices we make are choices for this life. God has already made the choice regarding eternal life. However, that is not to say that the choices we do make in this life have no importance. To say that since God has already saved me by grace, I can do whatever I want and sin as much as I want since I know Jesus will forgive me.

To live our lives in such a way is to say that Jesus' suffering and death really weren't that big of a deal. It becomes what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called "Cheap Grace."

We have been blessed with a Savior and with a faith to believe and trust in that Savior. How we choose to live our lives in response to what God has done and continues to do is at the crux of our passage from Joshua on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month.

Joshua does not mince words when it comes to our response to God's grace. Like our Messiah who centuries later would say "No one can serve two masters;" Joshua makes it clear that the Hebrews can worship the gods of their ancestors, the gods of the folks around them or the one true God, but there can be no serving more than one.

Likewise, each day we are given a new opportunity to respond to what God has done. Like then, there are many gods that seek to have the top priority and take us away from the worship of the one true God. Whether it is sporting tournaments, company from out of town, hunting or harvest seasons, or even a really good sale, we are called each day to answer Joshua's challenge and ask ourselves, "Ultimately, whom do I serve?". I pray that we all will echo Joshua's proclamation, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

*Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Geier*

## GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE

	Actual 06/21 YTD	Budget 06/21 YTD	Actual 06/20 YTD
<b>General and Misc. Funds YTD</b>			
Income	\$245,380	\$246,000	\$231,181
Expenses	\$261,692	\$271,725	\$224,734
Over (short)	(\$16,312)	(\$25,725)	\$6,448
<b>Capital Fund</b>	\$82,628	\$85,000	\$69,728

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 1	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
August 8	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51
August 15	Job 38:1-11, 40:15-23 Mark 9:2-8
August 22	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
August 29	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Thank you to our St. Philip's family for prayers, phone calls, and cards for Norm and myself as we were recovering and healing from our recent health issues. We appreciate them all and are blessed to have you all in our lives. We are doing well getting adjusted to our new home in Apple Valley at Orchard Park Assisted Living, 5400 157th Street West #336, Apple Valley, MN 55124.

*Norm and Lenora Holtorf*

A special Thank You to the members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church. You have been such a tremendous support in the days since Bert's passing on April 26, 2020, and now you have continued that support through the memorial service which was held on July 17, 2021. There are so many individuals who helped make the service a beautiful experience. Bert would have liked it. Please know that we are thankful for each one of you.

*In Love and Appreciation,  
Margaret Goderstad and Family*

## UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for **David Steele**, (husband of Nadia Saed Steele, father of Vivienne Steele and son-in-law of Farid and Diane Saed) Monday, August 16 at 4:00 pm at the Wayzata Country Club, in Wayzata, Minnesota. Please contact Farid or Diane if you plan to attend, or wish for more information. Dr. Judith Stone, Central Lutheran Church will be officiating.

*Farid and Diane Saed*

Now that many of us have been immunized against COVID-19, it is time to celebrate the life of **Ione Orr** on September 3, just over 1 year after her passing on September 2, 2020. Please join us on September 3 for a visitation at St. Philip's at 10:00 am and followed by her memorial service at 11:00 am and a catered lunch at the church. For those many people who sent beautiful thoughts and cards at the time of her passing, please do not repeat that process, just sign the guest book and greet us! A family only committal service will follow the luncheon.

*Jennie, Dan, Lori and Joel Thomas*

## - AMONG OUR OWN -

### **Congratulations to...**

**Annie Sue DeGrote** (daughter of Vinnie and Jessica DeGrote) blessings on her baptism

**All those celebrating their wedding anniversary in August.** Listed below are couples reaching a special anniversary...

**Todd and Jennifer Herber** on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 3

**Craig and Amy Mares** on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 5

**Al and Gail Carstensen** on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 8

**Scott and Tiffany Stewart** on their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 12

**Paul and Karen Swanstrom** on their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 14

**Gary and Marge Evenson** on their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 16

**Chad and Kara Terhark** on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 18

**Ronald and Crystal Stock** on their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 20

**Earl and Kathy Stockman** on their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 22

**Eric and Jennifer Dorschner** on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 23

**Steve and Carol Tobin** on their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 23

**Jeffrey and Brenda Rossow** on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 24

**Michelle (Willis) and Thomas Ling** on their 1<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on August 29

**Bob and Linda Brommer** on their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 29

**Jim and Jeanne Cowee** on their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 31

### **Sympathies...**

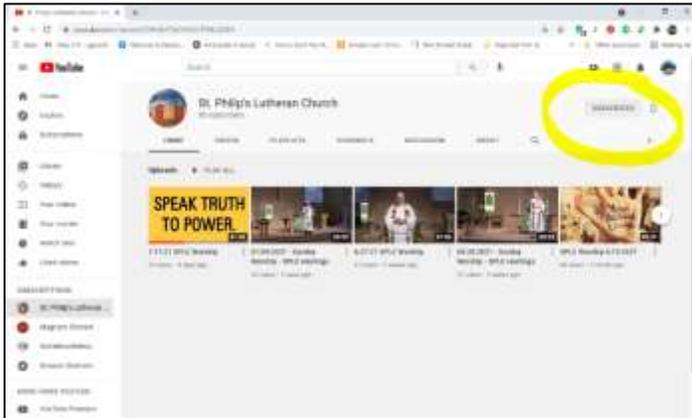
**Maria Gathje and family** as they mourn the death of her brother-in-law Jason Pauly

Registration for Sunday school and confirmation is open! You can find registration forms at the Welcome Center or register online on the SPLC website [www.splchastings.org](http://www.splchastings.org).

Confirmation orientation will be on Wednesday, September 1 and Rally Day is on Sunday, September 12. See you in the fall!



## HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH YouTube PAGE?



If you have not yet subscribed, please do! Once we get over 100 subscribers YouTube will allow us to livestream our worship services and have a much friendlier web address. That will make it easier to find our YouTube page and worship services. Even if you are worshipping in person, it will be helpful to our ministry if you subscribe. THANKS!

## SPEAKING OF



It is the goal of our Worship Ministry Team, our church council, and Pastor Geier for us to eventually livestream our worship services. This means that we would be broadcasting our worship live for those who want to worship with our in person congregation and recording the live service so that it would be available for people who wish to worship online later.

There will be hardware and software expenses but in the long run it will save us money. We also will be addressing privacy concerns to ensure that everyone's privacy will be respected. If you have questions or concerns let us know!

## IT'S HERE! THE GARAGE & PLANT SALE HAS ARRIVED

### Sunday, August 1

Set Up. Sturdy human beings who can carry and walk tables, racks and hangers.

### Monday, August 2

Bring your donations until 8 pm. Help in a department if possible

### Tuesday, August 3

Bring your donations until 8 pm. Help in a department if possible

### Wednesday, August 4

Bring your donations until 8 pm. Help in a department if possible

### Thursday, August 5

Bring donations until 6 pm. Help in a department if possible

### Friday, August 6

No donations accepted. We work until 12:30 pm doing final touches

### Saturday, August 7

Sale Day starts at 8:00 am. First Shift Workers on site at 7:30 am

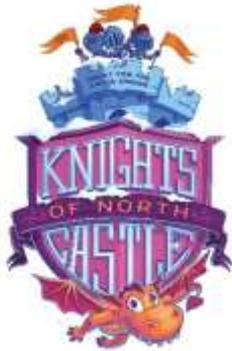
### SO WHY DO WE DO THIS?

- Fifteen sales have proven to build spirited church and community relationships
- Fifteen sales have provided increased resources for ministries locally and afar
- Fifteen sales have linked member to member in friendship
- Fifteen sales have stretched our planning and creative skills to new levels
- Fifteen sales have provided an outlet of service to members giving them a new sense of belonging
- Fifteen sales have helped shoppers find essential goods at reasonable prices
- Fifteen sales link generations within the congregation together in a common goal
- Fifteen sales have allowed us to be the face of our Lord and Savior in a unique way



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

Our Vacation Bible School program, the Knights of North Castle, was so much fun! We had around 60 kids every day, where they learned about the armor of God: the Belt of Truth, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Breastplate of Justice. Our "banner verse" was Ephesians 6:10, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." Our special puppet guest was Sparky the dragon, who breathes ice instead of fire! Whenever Sparky sneezes, everyone had to freeze in place. Sparky was a HUGE hit with all the kids. At the beginning of opening and closing assemblies, sometimes they would chant his name until he would come out of his castle and say hi. One of the favorite songs was called "Be Strong in the Lord," which of course was our banner verse! Thank you to all of the volunteers who donated time, effort, and supplies! We would not have been able to do this fun event without you!



Check out the VBS photo album at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NCSopo5MJATrMyoi6>  
More photos from VBS will be uploaded on the SPLC website on the VBS page!

---

## DO DAYS AND THE ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Do Days is going great again, but will not be meeting as usual on August 5 due to the preparations going on that week for the church Annual Garage Sale. We do have an ask of you however! Please think of us while you are going through your home looking for Garage Sale donations. If you find any old blankets, thick or thin, that are maybe faded or stained or whose binding isn't in good shape but without actual holes in the blanket itself, don't give them to the Garage Sale – they only want your good stuff – but don't throw them away, either! Put them in a bag and label it clearly "DO DAYS" and leave the bag on the counter under the office windows in the Room of Requirement. They make great "filler" for our quilts and require fewer ties, so we can get more quilts finished in an afternoon when we use blankets instead of batting. Thanks in advance and feel free to come join us on Thursday, August 19 any time from 1 to 4 or 5 pm and help us turn your old blankets into quilts!

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Director of Second Service Worship

This position is responsible to create and lead weekly worship services two times a month, in coordination with the Pastor and Director of Music, and provide music leadership. Position is part time (18 hours a week during school year, 6 hours per week in the summer).

Qualifications include: demonstrated excellence in leading music and worship through singing alone with keyboard/guitar accompaniment, and leading members of the Worship Band as scheduled. In addition, excellent organizational skills, understanding of copyright laws and ability to work with minimal supervision are required. High School degree required; Bachelor's Degree in Music desirable but not required.

See Pastor Geier for more information.

---

## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

After a year off due to COVID-19, we are again collecting school supplies this summer and fall for Lutheran World Relief School kits. Because our backpack makers stayed busy last year during COVID, we have over 100 backpacks ready to fill! During the month of August, we will be collecting 70 page, single subject spiral notebooks (4 needed for each kit), blue or black pens (5/kit), pencils (5/kit), pencil sharpeners (1/kit), erasers (1/kit), 30 centimeter rulers (1/kit), blunt school scissors (1/kit) and boxes of 16 or 24 crayons (1/kit. Crayola brand preferred, as some generics melt too easily during shipping). Items must be new and free of military or religious words or symbols, including no camouflage. Consider picking up a few extras when passing the school supply displays in your favorite store when they have their end of summer "Back to School" specials. Most needed in past years have been scissors and notebooks. Please place in kind donations in the shopping cart that will be in the narthex from July 18 through the end of August. Any monetary donations designated for this project placed in the offering plate or the deposit box by the office will be used to purchase additional supplies or given to LWR for shipping. The backpacks will be packed between services on Sunday, September 12, as part of the Rally Sunday celebration and everyone is encouraged to participate!

Questions? Please contact Sarah Bennett or Jennie Orr Thomas.

## MARY FISCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

We congratulate Molly Barker as the winner of the 2021-22 Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship. She will receive the \$2,000 award towards her studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth where she will be majoring in Political Science with a minor in Women, Gender and Sexuality studies. All applications showed that service to God and community are alive and well at St. Philip's. Taking those gifts out into the world away from our church is a gift worth treasuring. Thank you to all who applied.



## GROWING MEMBERSHIP THROUGH BEAUTIFUL BAPTISMS

Baby Arthur Mark Zuzek at the font with maternal grandparents Laura and Kurt Zabel, and parents Aleaha and Alex Zuzek.



Pastor Geier introducing Annie Sue DeGrote (daughter of Vinnie and Jessica DeGrote) to the congregation.



## WELCOME TO THE PRAYER TEAM!

At the end of his life, Billy Graham said he had but one regret. He wished he had prayed more. Wow! That is very surprising, knowing how much he must have prayed for all of his crusades! Would you like to spend a little more time in prayer? You are invited to join the SPLC Prayer Team. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month for prayer and teaching. You do not need to pray aloud - God hears ALL of our prayers!

Each Sunday a member of the Prayer Team is in the Prayer Chapel before, during and after the service. This is totally optional for each member. We welcome you to join us in this ministry! If you have any questions, please contact Sue Retka at 651-437-5173.

## WEDNESDAY FUN NIGHT SIDEWALK CHALK MASTERPIECE



## PIE AND ICE CREAM AT THE HISTORIC LeDUC

Sunday August 29, 6 pm (on the rear lawn)

St. Philip's will be back serving their homemade pies after having one year off. This event is conducted to help meet St. Philip's support to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. LSS is an agency which expresses the love of Christ to all faiths, ethnic groups and genders. It also stands ready to help any of us who may easily have a need represented by their wealth of programs.



There will soon be a sign up sheet on the kiosk. You're invited to supply one or two pies, cash for ice cream and supplies, or work as a volunteer behind the table that night. It's very fun and the results help meet our outreach to LSS.



## COLUMBARIUM PROJECT IS COMPLETE



It all started with a generous donation so St. Philip's could offer a final resting place for its members and their families who choose cremation. A columbarium is a beautiful structure, containing niches (compartments) to hold the ashes of our loved ones. At the February 2020 annual meeting, the congregation approved to appoint a team to make this dream become a reality. For seventeen months the team researched, planned, and made decisions. Most of the time this work has been behind the scenes: policies were made, documents were written, and vendors were contracted.

Finally, during the month of June, the east side of the church property saw much activity. First was the concrete work: the foundation and a sidewalk. Second, the 80-unit columbarium was delivered and assembled. Third was the brick work on the back and sides of the columbarium. Next in the lineup was the landscaper who installed patio pavers, a planter, plus a variety of trees, plants and shrubs. Two curved benches added a final touch. Another generous donation was also received, which will help to offset some of the costs. A dedication will take place probably sometime in September.

A table has been set up in the narthex with a rendering of our columbarium, a sample niche, sell sheets for the taking, and application folders for those who are interested in leasing a niche. Stop by on a Sunday morning and talk to one of our team members. Let us know if you prefer to have the application mailed to you. Please return application, along with payment, to the church office during business hours or via US Mail. The sell sheet is also included in this newsletter in the inserts. For more information, call Gary McDougall at 651-216-7213 or Judy Hansen at 612-600-1209.

## FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Wednesday Evening Events in August (6-7 pm)

- August 4 – Egg Drop
- August 11 – Campfire Night
- August 18 – Talent Show
- August 25 – Favorite Gams



## JULY GROUNDS GROOMING VOLUNTEERS DID WONDERS

Ten volunteers responded to the call for grounds grooming on July 10. Weeds were pulled, overgrown trees were trimmed, dead shrubs dug out, and a row of day lilies removed that had become an eye sore.



Thanks are extended to Bill Pavlish, Steve Wolverton, Patty Todnem, Al Todnem, Mary Rock, Pam Hoffman, Dave Tank, Robyn Tank, Sue Karnick and Glenda Schnirring. With most able to work a full three hours plus, becomes an equivalent of a 40 hour work week of improvements to the property.



A bid has been accepted for Precision Landscaping to spread mulch into the four priority areas that were worked on. We're never done. Weeds are our enemy, so spraying and pulling are a constant.

Anyone moved to come and work independently is welcomed.

## HIGH SCHOOL KAYAK TRIP!



On Saturday, August 21, all high schoolers are invited to a kayaking trip on Lake Byllesby! We are planning to meet at St. Philip's at 1 pm to drive over together, and

leave the lake at around 4 pm. Please talk to Sarah Bennett if you are interested in going (email: [sarahb@splchastings.org](mailto:sarahb@splchastings.org)). If you'd like a single kayak, we ask for a \$20 deposit, and if you want to share a kayak, the deposit is \$15. Friends and parent chaperones are also more than welcome!

## BLOOD DRIVE - St. Philip's will be hosting the

Red Cross for a blood drive on August 26 from 12:00 - 6:00 pm. You can sign up to donate on the Red Cross webpage [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

If you would like to help at the blood drive, please contact Katy Lindberg at 651-437-5031.

# WELCA'S ANNUAL SUMMER OUTING CRUISING THE ST. CROIX

A great day was had by 26 women who traveled to Stillwater and boarded a river cruise boat for two hours of enjoyable fellowship and beauty.



*Twenty-six women ready to depart on their July 8 cruise*



*Lots of laughs and conversations in big and small groups took place*



*Noreen Swanson, Barb Jorenby and Carolyn enjoy time after lunch*



*Kathy Luedtke taking it all in*



*Marita Legreid, organizer of the cruise along with Karen Elliott and Vonnie Olson*



*Patty Todnem hosted three sisters and her sister in law for the trip*



*Sue Retka enjoying catching up with Melissa Olson Clarkson*



*Carolyn Schaar was totally fashion coordinated as she disembarked the cruise ship*



*Gerri Holmseth in the ship's dining room*



*Mary Rock and Cindy Toppin enjoying a view of the St. Croix*

## KEEPING CONNECTED

How to you condense 90 years into a few paragraphs?

I've lived most of my life in the Twin Cities, and so it's fair to call myself a "city dweller".

But to be honest, I don't think of myself entirely in those terms. In fact, a significant part of my identity is decidedly rural. I was born and raised on a farm near Emmons,



Minnesota, the third of four children. My Norwegian parents milked cows, raised pigs and chickens, had a horse or two, and cropped the land. Of course, there was no indoor plumbing, so once-a-week bath night was a very big production (and you wanted to be the first one in the bathwater!). My early education was in a one-room schoolhouse, with one teacher and eight grades all trying to learn together. I'm sure it was a little chaotic, and perhaps I complained about it at the time, but now in my memory it's filled with wonderful thoughts of my teachers, friends, and family.

I made it out of that one-room school and on to Kiester High School. (Some of you may remember a few years ago that Kiester, Minnesota was featured in a national TV advertisement for Preparation H? My thought at the time was: I hope this isn't my 15 minutes of fame!). I left the farm and matriculated to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. It's there that I met my husband Wally, and as they say, now the game was really on. I certainly could write a very thick book telling the nitty gritty of the Life and Times of Wally and Helen, but no one's interested in that. Let me just give salient facts-- what I consider main themes of the 50+ marriage years that followed.

We got married in Scarville, Iowa, in the same church where I was baptized and confirmed. Our first jobs after college were in Mason City, Iowa, where Wally worked for Standard Oil and I was a bookkeeper at State Brand Creamery. This is where Tom was born. He had (has) red hair. Did you know that only 2% of the population is born with red hair?

Wally was a good writer and salesman, so landed a job with a newspaper on Osage, Iowa. We settled there for two years before uprooting again for another

newspaper job in Waukon, Iowa. Our second son, Jim, was born here. Before moving onto the next transition, I must mention that in every town we lived in, we made dear and lasting friends, friends that I am in contact with yet today. Friendship has been what has sustained me through this wonderful journey!

Next stop was West Union, Iowa. Wally was the hospital administrator as well as the administrator for the "old folks' home". (it has special meaning for me now!). We had an old pickup truck, so the sheriff would sometimes radio Wally if there was a roadkill deer, and Wally would drive out with his truck and haul it back to the kitchen in the old folks' home for processing to help feed the residents. Hard to believe now, but times were hard then. We had our third son, David, and now we had a busy family of five. It was small town life in the best sense of that phrase. I could send the two older boys out to play all day without a worry in the world about crime. After breakfast I told them to be home for lunch, or perhaps I would pack them lunch, and they would be gone all day to Echo Valley Park, climbing trees, catching frogs and snakes, and playing in the many streams. It was a good life, and again, we had many dear friends.

But we were ambitious, Wally and I, and we looked for new opportunities for our boys and ourselves. This is when we made our big move to Minnesota! We did not have money for a fancy moving truck. We moved instead in a cattle truck with the kids' bicycles tied to the outside of the truck's rails. If you remember the Beverly Hillbillies opening credits, well, it wasn't that much different than that! Our stop was a rental house in Fridley, Minnesota. We lived there for two years while Wally finished his master's degree in hospital administration. I never worked harder in my life. I was home with David while the boys were at school, doing what was required to keep a family in food and clean clothes. At night, I would go to work as a bookkeeper. While those were hard years, they were also very good years because of the friends that I made, and who yet sustain me to this very day. I thank God for them daily.

We were about to settle down as a family, but not before the "summer from Hell." Wally graduates and starts an internship in a Minneapolis hospital. We are offered a free summer rental in a beautiful home in Wayzata. This is when I learned to be wary of things that are "free". A few weeks into our stay the "free" beautiful house is sold to someone for cash, and we have to be out in a week. I have three boys and nowhere to go. I will cut to the end: I moved seven times that summer. During that time, Wally was

looking for a permanent job, and he was fortunate to land a job at Mounds Park Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota as its administrator. We bought a home in the Battle Creek area. When we moved into it, David said, "This is nice. Can we live here a whole year?" In fact, we lived there not only a year, but thirty "whole years."

Now, for the sake of you, dear reader, comes a large lacuna in my timeline. I jump from 1968 to 1998, and Wally and I move to Hastings. I skip thirty years of my life because there is simply too much to tell: births and deaths, graduations, weddings and divorces, financial gains and setbacks, trips abroad, vacations at home, and so on and on. All lives are made up in this way, is my guess, and so I hope you can understand this narrative decision.

In each of our many moves, choosing a church was a first priority. Both Wally and I enjoyed active engagement in church life, including teaching Sunday school, serving on church councils, singing in the choir (we both sang in the Luther College choir), and doing volunteer work. We choose St. Philip's in Hastings because we found the people to be very friendly.

Wally died of cancer in 2003. Since then, I have some wonderful friends here and we care for each other. Life would not be possible without them. I also have many grandchildren and great grandchildren (Wally never lived to see any of the 'greats'). My days are filled with reading, doing puzzles of all kinds, some exercising, baking, and visiting with friends and family.

As I write this, I thank God for the journey I have had, and for His love countless blessings.

Helen F. Brudvig

In May of 1967 the road leading to the new St. Philip's Lutheran Church was unpaved gravel. The small building had been readied for the first service on May 21. The finish work was still in progress and faithful volunteers had spent countless hours in preparation for this day.



There were noisy and uncomfortable folding chairs, tile floors, and a Pullman style kitchen without a stove. The women had baked cinnamon rolls for the coffee hour and they had to be kept warm on top of the furnace.

The spirit was there! Despite the challenges, it was one of the most exciting days for our family of three. This was a new era when we realized that the church was not just within these four walls, but went far beyond, into the greater world. Our name comes from the Disciple Philip who said in John 1:46, "Come and See." Come to Worship, Come to Serve, Come to Learn, Come to Serve and Come As You Are. Philip had the reputation of being approachable, concerned, dedicated, seeking, and always with a listening ear to the community, in the service of Lord Jesus the Christ. Next time you walk into the church, look for the plaque that describes our namesake.

Thus began our journey. We have witnessed the construction of several additions, and at long last our beautiful and welcoming sanctuary was completed. My husband, Bert, was fortunate to be able to serve on several of these building committees.

Over the years it's been a pleasure to work on such projects as Taste on the Tar, Garage Sales, Bake Sales/Soup Luncheons, Pie on the Levee and the LeDuc, Candlelight Buffet, Fellowship Committee, Church Council and Fellowship Dinners.

Yes, and the church has gone beyond its walls. Throughout the years, our members have, and continue to serve on such entities as City Council, School Board, City Commissions, City Planning, Historic Preservation, Hastings Family Service, HPAAC (Hastings Prescott Area Arts Council), and Hastings Community Theater. These volunteers, who have their roots grounded in St. Philip's Lutheran Church, have created a positive impact in our growing community.

The pandemic has been difficult for so many people, but despite the loss of Bert and the move to Park Ridge (Hastings Senior Health and Living), I have learned that God's grace is more than sufficient.

Thank you to all the Saints at St. Philip's Lutheran Church who have prayed for me, given me rides and in other ways provided encouragement. God bless you all.

*Margaret Goderstad*

Hello! I'm Dolly (Cynthia) Holzheu. I came to St Philip's in November of 2007, where my daughter (Pam Johnson) attended. I was overwhelmed with the friendly and welcoming people! I was raised in the Missouri Synod Lutheran church (Golden Valley Lutheran) and lived in Minnetonka, until 2007. After attending Bemidji State College for two summers, I got my Food Service certification, and commenced to work for the Wayzata school district as head of the food service department, retiring after 31 years. I married my husband, Donald, in 1947, and we celebrated 60 wonderful years together before his passing. My daughter Pam has moved to northern Wisconsin, after her husband passed with cancer in 2017, to live in the retirement home they were building. I have a daughter Cynthia (Wayne) Nelson, living in Shakopee, Minnesota and a son, Terry (Sue), living in Idaho.



I am so happy to have found many friends here to give me support and help. Denny and Tricia Kohn have been especially helpful, along with Abbey French (my supportive aide) and many other dear people here at St. Philip's. I've enjoyed many activities here, including Monday bible study, Mission Mexico spaghetti dinners, Zoom communion, CD Sunday services in my home, Pastor Geier visitations along with his outstanding bible based sermons, and much more.

---

Greetings from Gary and Marge Evenson!

We joined St. Philip's 54 Years ago in August, 1967, just 3 months prior to the founding of this mission congregation. We were so inspired by Pastor Bob Boxrud's messages and the greetings by members of the church that we knew this was the place for our faith to grow. Gary accepted the principal position at John F. Kennedy Elementary School so our family moved here after teaching 9



years in Spring Grove, Minnesota. We both grew up in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area and were married 62 years ago in Onalaska, Wisconsin but we have since then lived in Minnesota.

We are blessed with three children. All of our children attended Sunday school and were confirmed at St. Philip's. Our oldest, Kay, lives in Eagan, Minnesota and is a registered nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. Son, Mark, lives in Hastings and has been a long-time employee at Innovative Surfaces in Hastings. Our youngest, Susan Bernardy, lives in Eden Prairie and is a human resources director at the Fairview Hospital Corporate Office. We have three granddaughters, Alyssa Evenson and Alexa and Ashtyn Bernardy. Our one grandson is Austin Evenson who married Sarah Richmond. They have blessed us with two great granddaughters Kylee and Violet with a third child expected to arrive in September.

Through the years Gary has served on many committees at St. Philip's and has been a singer in the Unity singers since its' origin back in the late 1960s. We have had the pleasure to know and grow with all the pastors that have served St. Philip's. Our main pastime interests have been golfing, reading and walking and getting together with our family as often as possible.

In our retirement years we have traveled throughout the USA and Norway. After traveling we decided to spend winter where the weather is sunny and warm. Our choice was Sun City West, Arizona where we purchased a small home and were fortunate to spend many winters in Arizona. We acquired many friends through the American Lutheran Church. It was an enjoyable and interesting experience belonging to a church family that consisted basically of all retired people from all over the United States often referred to as snowbirds. During the pandemic we were also very appreciative to be able to participate in the St. Philip's service and listen to Pastor Geier's message every Sunday on YouTube and also receiving the monthly "The Philippiian". We are glad to be back home and receive the warm welcomes from our friends.



**ST. PHILIP'S STAFF**

**Gregory Geier, Pastor**

[pastorgeier@splchastings.org](mailto:pastorgeier@splchastings.org)

**Noreen Swanson, Organist**

[swansonhastings@centurylink.net](mailto:swansonhastings@centurylink.net)

**Ellen Diischer, Music Director**

[ellend@splchastings.org](mailto:ellend@splchastings.org)

**Sarah Bennett, Director of Children,  
Youth and Family Ministries**

[sarahb@splchastings.org](mailto:sarahb@splchastings.org)

**Christine Rydel, Business Manager**

[christiner@splchastings.org](mailto:christiner@splchastings.org)

**John Diischer, Sound Board Technician**

[johnd@splchastings.org](mailto:johnd@splchastings.org)

**Becky Kaphing, Preschool Co-Director**

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

**Lorelei Rein, Preschool Co-Director**

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

**Lista Klocow, Office Manager**

[listak@splchastings.org](mailto:listak@splchastings.org)

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

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541

[www.splchastings.org](http://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”

In-Person Worship Sundays at 9:30 am

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