

# 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 2023

## AUGUST EVENTS

Pie and Ice Cream Outdoor Concert  
Sunday, August 20 at 6 pm

American Red Cross Blood Drive  
Thursday, August 24 at 12-6 pm

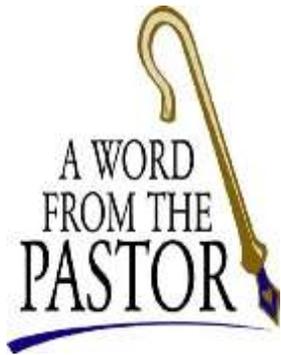
Family of Faith Serving Event  
Feed My Starving Children  
Saturday, August 26

Adult Handbell Ringers Begin  
Monday, August 28 at 7 pm

Sunday School Registration

"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He [Jesus] said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him.

*Matthew 14:28-31*



I recently read an article titled, "Stay in the Boat" by Mark Hoffman who teaches at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. It helped me to see this text in a new way. I've heard quite a few (and maybe even preached a few) sermons on this text that basically come down to a commendation of

Peter's faith for getting out of the boat and walking on the water. The problem, as it is usually put, is that he takes his eye off Jesus, and his faith falters, but Jesus is there to save him. So, the sermon concludes, be courageous, get out of the boat, but keep your focus on Jesus.

Okay, that may be good encouragement for some people to put their faith into action, but it kind of misses the point of the story. After all, when they get back in the boat, the other disciples don't congratulate Peter for doing pretty well and wish him better luck next time! The real hero in the story is Jesus whom the disciples worship (for the first time in Matthew) as the Son of God.

What are we to make of Peter's request for Jesus to identify himself by allowing him to walk on the water. I don't think we are to commend him. Jesus has clearly identified himself by telling the disciples to "Take heart," something he also says in 9:2 and 22, and the people do so. He declares, "I am," with its divine overtones. He says, "Don't be afraid," which he regularly declares in Matthew. (10:26, 28, 31; 17:7; 28:10) So when Peter says, "If it is you...", then he is joining the company of Satan (4:3, 6), the high priest (26:63), and the mockers at the cross (27:40) who all put the same challenge to Jesus. In each case, just like Peter, they want Jesus to do something in order to verify his identity. This is not a good thing...

Jesus does grant the request to Peter, but there should be no surprise that matters are not going to end well for him. First, it's an enactment of the truth that we are not intended to walk on water, and if we try, we will find ourselves in deep over our heads and unable to save ourselves. Second, Peter does rightly know what we all need to do when caught in situations like this and sinking like a rock: "Lord, save me!" which of course, Jesus does.

We should also note that Jesus ends up in the boat with the disciples. A ship was one of the earliest symbols for Christianity, and this story indicates why it was attractive: when surrounded by adversity, safety and salvation are experienced in the church with Jesus in its midst. But remember that a ship is not a static symbol. It is a vehicle used to get somewhere. Ultimately, we may ask, "Why did Jesus and the disciples cross the sea?" The answer is given in 14:34-36. They wanted to get to the other side to minister to those people there. So, leave walking on water to Jesus. That ship which is the church is where we want to be, and it can provide the way for us to get to other places, so that disciples of the Son of God can be moving throughout the land!

*Your Servant in Christ.*

*Pastor Geier*

## THANK YOU

I wish to share my sincere gratitude for the reception on July 16 to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination. Words that come to mind include, overwhelming, awesome, tremendous, generous, and amazing. The many cards I received genuinely touched my heart and reinforced the certainty that I am indeed blessed to be your pastor. Thank you for your partnership in ministry and for allowing me to walk with you.

*Pastor Geier*

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Thank you to everyone at St. Philip's for their prayers and support for Brian's healing. They are very much appreciated.

Love and God's Blessings,  
*Brian and Sue Drummond*

**- AMONG OUR OWN -**

*Congratulations to...*

**Amelia Anne Warnecke** (daughter of Derrick and Samantha Warnecke) blessings on her baptism

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

**Jeff and Lynn Lucas** on their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 6

**John and Nancy Goldsmith** on their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary on August 12

**Paul and Karen Swanstrom** on their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 14

**Gary and Marge Evenson** on their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 16

**TJ and Pam Johnson** on their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 21

**Earl and Kathy Stockman** on their 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 22

**Steve and Carol Tobin** on their 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 23

**Erik and Rene' Lind** on their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 26

**Bob and Linda Brommer** on their 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 29

**Jim and Jeanne Cowee** on their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 31

*Sympathies to...*

**Tom Reller and family** as they mourn the death of his wife Diane

**Kay Rowan and Family** as they mourn the death of her mother Mary Lou Christenson

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- August 6     Isaiah 55:1-5  
              Romans 9:1-5  
              Matthew 14:13-21
- August 13    1 Kings 19:9-18  
              Romans 10:5-15  
              Matthew 14:22-33
- August 20    Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
              Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
              Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
- August 27    Isaiah 51:1-6  
              Romans 12:1-8  
              Matthew 16:13-20

**GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE**

GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE		
	2023	2022
June 2023 YTD Giving		
	\$338,164.03	\$356,721.45
June 2023 YTD Expenses		
	\$292,539.87	\$327,632.08
Net		
	\$ 45,624.16	\$ 29,089.37

**ANNUAL PIE AND ICE CREAM  
OUTDOOR CONCERT AT THE  
HISTORIC LeDUC  
Sunday, August 20, 6 pm**

The summer outdoor concerts in the apple orchard of the Historic LeDuc Mansion provides a time for St. Philip's to do community outreach by serving pie, brownies, ice cream and beverages to those coming to the free concert. Music will be provided by "Darlene and the Boys" which is a very popular group with Hastings concert goers.



A sign up is on the kiosk for baking one or two pies for this annual event. There is also a need for volunteers to help set up the tables and get pies cut and put into containers. Please sign up to help with this especially fun event. Proceeds are earmarked for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota which St. Philip's financially supports.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS  
BLOOD DRIVE**



St. Philip's will be hosting a Red Cross blood drive Thursday, August 24 from noon till 6 pm. You can sign up online to save your spot to donate blood at: [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive).

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the event, there is a sign up on the kiosk or you may call Katy Lindberg at 651-437-5031

## MARY FISCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

We congratulate Lindsay Mathison as the winner of the 2023 Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship. She will receive the \$2,000 award towards her studies at the University of North Dakota where she will be majoring in Marketing. The Fischer family has also awarded additional \$250 scholarships to Molly Barker, Kendal Jenkins and Katelynn Krey. All applicants 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.




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## FAITH FORMATION TEAM

As summer comes to an end and we prepare for fall programming we are looking for people to join the faith formation team. Last year with a small team we were able to get Sunday School up and running, a combined confirmation class, a beautiful Christmas program, a multi-generational family night, and Vacation Bible School. We'd love to have more people join this team so we could plan more family activities and more teen activities. This team would really benefit with members of all ages bringing new ideas in. Please let us know if you're interested. Thanks.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Now is the to time sign up for Sunday School. Registration forms can be found on the welcome center or online.

Along with being excited to start another fun year with our Whirl curriculum we are also looking for teachers to teach. Last year we switched from Spark Sunday School curriculum to the Whirl curriculum. Teachers really enjoyed that this curriculum was laid out nicely, easy to teach, and lots of different activities. Please consider joining our Sunday School teaching team. The more teachers we get to pair up and team teach the easier it is for everyone. If interested in teaching or if you have questions please speak with Pastor, Katie Thomas, or Becky Kaphing.

## BECOME A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER THIS YEAR

We have been Sunday School co-teachers for the past three years and we are going to do it for a fourth. Here is why:

The current curriculum is easy to use. It follows the readings, sermon, and children's time during the church service which means students are already prepared and knowledgeable when they arrive for class. It uses the same outline each week and offers multiple choices for follow-up activities. We divide the lesson and each of us is responsible for the same parts each week. That means only having to spend an hour or so in preparation. We text each other to share our plans and do some additional brainstorming together which means better ideas. We rely on each other's strengths.



The second reason is that as a team, students can count on us. If one of us needs to be absent, the other is there, which means no substitute teachers. It also means that if a student (or one of us) is having an "off day," we help each other to keep all running smoothly. With two teachers, there is little down time. Two teachers also bring multiple perspectives and experiences which result in some awesome class discussions.

The third reason is the BEST of all! It is how we benefit. We love getting to know our students and their families. It is exciting to observe the growth of each student's sense of accomplishment and connection to the church and to each other. Teaching is a wonderful opportunity to share our own faith and learn together. The students often amaze us with their own observations and connections. We also learn from them!

Team teaching really offers huge rewards. If you have ever thought about teaching but backed away because you weren't sure you had the skills or the time, this may be your answer. We are eager to answer any questions you may have, and will offer our support.

*Bernita Weber and Marjorie Peterson*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR RALLY DAY

Join us September 10 after service for bounce houses, games, snacks and get signed up for Sunday School. Stay tuned for more details!



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



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

**FOUR** spiral notebooks of 70 pages of EITHER wide or narrow rule paper (\$0.35 at the local big box store)

**ONE** pair blunt children's scissors (generic \$0.74 or two for \$1.47, big box)

**ONE** 2.5" pink eraser (generic 2/\$0.47 big box)

**ONE** box 16 or 24 crayons, Crayola brand, please - they ship and work better and aren't that much more expensive than generics (boxes of 24 are \$0.50 at the big box)

**FIVE** blue or black ball point pens (no gel ink!!!) 10/\$1.27 at the big box when in stock

**ONE** 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (but none without centimeters! (Wood ones \$0.54 at the big box, plastic ones 3/\$1.25 at a dollar store)

**ONE** pencil sharpener (\$0.47 with shavings catcher at the big box, simple ones 12/\$1.25 at a dollar store)

**FIVE** UNSHARPENED #2 pencils (we have LOTS leftover from last year, get something else, please, at least for now. Price to beat if we start running low is 24/\$0.97 at the big box)

We have LOTS of pencils left over from last year and rulers and sharpeners are easy to pick up at a dollar store if we are short. Items are listed above in the usual order of need in prior years. Prices are just to suggest that you keep looking if you find the items for significantly more.

We filled 161 bags last year and for this year we just ordered 166 pre-made bags with a Thrivent grant. Can we fill them all?

Questions, please contact Jennie Thomas.

## 2024 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IS HAPPENING!

New Orleans, July 16-20, 2024



Informational and Planning Meeting on Sunday August 13 at 7:00 pm (followed by games!)

The Gathering brings together thousands of high school age Lutherans from across the country and overseas for faith formation, worship, fellowship and service. If it sounds like fun, it is! This year's theme is "CREATED TO BE".

On Sunday, August 13 we will meet to talk about this opportunity and answer any questions you might have. We will talk about what happens at the Gathering as well as the cost and fundraising opportunities. We have to start planning now because registration opens on September 15!

So bring your questions. Bring your excitement. Bring your friends! The ELCA National Youth Gathering is a phenomenal experience with over 30,000 Lutheran teenagers where we learn, serve, play, and grow together.

## HARVEST FOOD SHARE



It's that time again to share your garden's abundance! All are welcome on Sundays to bring in any fruits or vegetables you may have to share. All are welcome to help yourself to the harvest that comes in.

## ATTENTION HANDBELL RINGERS

JoyPhil Ringers (adults) will have their first full rehearsal starting at 7 pm on Monday, August 28.

YouthPhil Ringers will start rehearsals on Monday, September 11 at 6:15 pm. Looking for more youth to help ring. If interested contact LuAnn Roiger.

## NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



SPLC is making plans to start hosting a monthly “pop-up pantry” with the organization Ruby’s Pantry.

What is Ruby’s Pantry? Ruby’s gathers various food overages, surpluses, and bumper crops into generous food bundles, available for a \$25 donation. They partner with churches to host once a month food distribution events open to anyone that is looking to extend their monthly grocery budget, with no income or residency requirements.

### To make this happen we need your help!

We are looking for a variety of volunteers, from leadership roles to volunteers to staff a pop-up. Training is provided!

- Leadership roles include: Finance coordinator, Guest coordinator, Promotions coordinator, Clean up coordinator and more!
- Monthly volunteers sign up for the month they can help, and will be able to organize food, load cars, direct traffic, talk with guests... there are so many ways to serve, for all ages and abilities. Families are encouraged to serve together! Average time commitment is less than 4 hours.

More information is located in the narthex. Reach out to Jen Klos (theklosfamily1023@gmail.com) or Katie Thomas (wkpm.thomas@gmail.com) with questions or to join the team!

## SAVE THE DATE

The second annual Philadazzle - "A touch of Scandinavia" will take place on Sunday, December 3, 5:30 pm at the church. This event will feature a full buffet meal plus some outstanding entertainment.

It is time to think about the Scandinavian clothing and jewelry you might wear. Make plans now to be a part of this exciting evening. Stay tuned for new details.



## FAMILY (OF FAITH) SERVING EVENT! Saturday, August 26 8:30-11:30 am

Come join your St. Philip’s family as we make a difference by packing meals for hungry neighbors around the world! Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children is a great team-building experience. Enjoy working together to save lives and feed kids in a positive, energetic and team-focused environment. This is a serving event for most everyone. (For safety reasons, children under the age of 5 are not allowed to be on the packing floor.)

There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex for you, your family, and your friends. Forty spots have been reserved for our group, but we can probably get more if we sign up early. We also will only be taking sign-ups through Sunday, August 20, so if there are less than 40 we can let them know so that other groups may fill those spots.

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

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

If you have already participated in a FMSC event, then you know how much fun it is. If you haven’t done this yet, now is the time! Those who want to will meet at the church to form carpools and leave at 8:30 am. Otherwise plan on being at 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136 in Eagan by 9:00 am. Our slot to learn and work is from 9:00-10:45 am.

## LET’S SERVE TOGETHER!

## *"Give First"*

by Pastor Chick Lane

I recently had two very interesting conversations on the same day. The first was with a pastor who asked, "Why has stewardship work gotten so much more difficult in recent years?" The second was with a different pastor who reported a conversation with a parishioner this way, "I was talking with a woman in the congregation recently, and she brought up her giving. She reported that their family was giving \$20 each week to the church and she felt this was about all they could afford to give. Their household income is well in excess of \$100,000, so they are giving less than one percent of their income, and they feel they are maxed out."

Obviously, these two conversations are connected. One reason stewardship work has gotten so much more difficult is that our culture of consumerism has enticed many people to make long term financial commitments that render generous giving almost impossible. For someone to report that giving less than one percent of their income has them maxed out, is, of course, absurd. What people should acknowledge is the choices they have made about the house(s) they will live in, the cars they will drive, the clothes they will wear, the lifestyle they will live. After all these choices have been made first, then there is nothing left to give to God's work in the world.

William T. Cavanaugh writes powerfully of this in "Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire". In two particularly powerful sentences, he writes, "Rather than turning away from material things and toward God, in consumer culture we plunge ever more deeply into the world of things ... One can always send a check to help feed the hungry, but one's charitable preferences will always be in competition with one's own endless desires."

We are all called to consider the intersection of faith and finances, toward the goal of making long-term financial decisions that reflect their faith and values. In work done this past spring at Luther Seminary, over one thousand members of healthy congregations took an online survey. One learning from this has been that congregation members would welcome help with their financial lives from their congregation, but don't feel that such help is available.

As Christians we also stress the importance of giving to God first, and living on the rest. In the face of our culture of consumerism, if people give what they have left after they have taken care of all their needs and

wants, generous giving will simply never happen. The Bible speaks clearly of the importance of giving to God first. When Moses is on Mount Sinai (for the second trip), God says, "The best of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the Lord your God." (Exodus 35:26) Just before the people enter the promised land, God says to the people, "When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground ... and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name." (Deuteronomy 26:1-2)

I'm not naïve enough to suspect that stewardship work in congregations is going to get any easier. However, if we can help people on the front end of financial decisions by encouraging faith-based financial conversations and by inviting first fruits giving, then maybe it won't just keep getting more and more difficult.



### ST. PHILIP'S PRESCHOOL

There are still a few openings for the 2023-24 Preschool year. We have Monday/Wednesday/Friday, Tuesday/Thursday, and the option of Monday-Friday morning classes 9 am-12 pm. Forms can be found on the preschool tab of the church website ([www.splchastings.org](http://www.splchastings.org)) or on the welcome center. If you or your family, neighbors, or friends have a preschooler, invite them to join us for the 2023-2024 school year. If you have any questions about registration, please feel free to call (651-437-6541) or email Becky or Lorelei at [preschool@splchasting.org](mailto:preschool@splchasting.org).



### SINCE YOU ASKED . . .

*How are we doing in paying off the new sanctuary projectors?*

The short answer is that we have received \$26,150.00 designated towards the almost \$40,000 we spent in replacing our two sanctuary projectors. Of that amount \$7,000 had previously been designated for improving the lighting of our chancel area in front of the sanctuary, but upon facing the challenge of such a sizable expenditure, the donor asked to re-designate those funds to this new venture.

The new projectors are a tremendous improvement in brightness, contrast and clarity. If you wish to contribute above and beyond your regular offering to help finish paying for them, simply write "projectors" in the memo portion of your check. Likewise, if you have a Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA that is looking for a good home, we can help!

### THANKS FOR ASKING!

### GARAGE SALE BEHIND-THE-SCENES

On a July Saturday, two gracious men from the Salvation Army came to retrieve what was left from the June 10 garage sale. An organized pick-up of 38 bags and 75 boxes plus 37 furniture items completed the pick-up. The Salvation Army has been a wonderful ally to St. Philip's in all 18 years of its garage sale endeavor. At last count the gross proceeds of the 2023 Garage and Plant Sale was \$20,660. Thank you again to Deborah Dreher for her leadership in this spirit building event for St. Philip's.



### WEEDING PROJECT

With a big "all call" for weeders in July, a number of able volunteers came when they could and eleven came on July 15. The fact remains that many areas have not been started. A posting of such areas following the 15th, resulted in the grounds looking better. While it's difficult to know all who came to weed during the week, the following names have been noticed weeding - Linda Ask, Steve Wolverton, Beth Vaughan, Jan and Neil Misegades, Al and Patty Todnem. Apologies for those names missed. Please let Glenda know if you've weeded and in what areas. On July 15 eleven volunteers came, Katy and Andy Lindberg, Bill Pavlish, Al Todnem, Lois Twedt, Robyn and Dave Tank, Richard Beatty, Mary Rock, Glenda Schnirring and Pastor Geier.



*The water ditch between the driveways was totally out of control with weeds. Glenda is seen trying to make a difference*



*Mary Rock handles many tall and very large weeds*



*Richard Beatty bagged what was being pulled and carried bags away*



*Bill Pavlish weeded and hauled numerous yard bags away as the morning wore on*

## PASTOR GEIER ORDINATION 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On July 16, St. Philip's congregation joined in celebrating the 30th anniversary of Pastor Geier's ordination into the ministry of the ELCA. A reception was held following the worship service where people enjoyed cake and conversation.



*Pastor Geier paused his many conversations to be photographed with call committee member Barb Jorenby*

*Photo boards of Pastor Geier's time at SPLC, cards, gifts and flowers created the festivity*



*The celebration cake served 100 celebrating members*

*Carter Lundstrom, soon to be Confirmed, was at the party with his family*



## FAITH STATEMENTS

Students scheduled to be Confirmed in their faith in the fall write a faith statement and present it to the congregation at a Sunday worship service. Peyton Thomas became this year's first student. Peyton gave a detailed account of his life-long participation at St. Philip's and what it has meant to him.



Linnea Ronning was the second Confirmation student to offer a Faith Statement during July. Linnea spoke of her love for running and expressed personal testimony to God being with her when she runs. She complimented her father Kristian Ronning as her teacher while she was in Sunday School and in her Confirmation years along with her mentor Patty Todnem and others. Linnea's message was that she knows she's a blessed and loved child of God and attributes her faith formation to many St. Philip's people and in that spirit pledges to continue to give of herself to its mission.



## SUMMER BEAUTY

Vonnie Olson contributes greatly to the beauty of St. Philip's entry by tending to the planter she provided to honor her husband Jim's memory. Through the year, Vonnie's love and skill with flowers is applied appropriately to the planter's floral selections. The congregation thanks Vonnie for the warm welcome her memorial planter provides to all who enter St. Philip's.



## KEEPING CONNECTED

Hello from Robin, Lori, and Jacob Stark

We have been members at St. Philip's since 1986. We moved to Hastings in 1985 when Robin began working at Koch Oil Refinery as an Electrical Designer. We attended a few churches and really liked St. Philip's so we became members in November of 1986.



Robin and I grew up in Tuttle, North Dakota, a small town in the central part of North Dakota. We both graduated from the high school there. We attended the English Lutheran Church and were baptized, confirmed, and married there. Our oldest two children were also baptized there.

Robin attended North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota for Electrical Technology. I attended Hastings Beauty School after moving here in 1985. Currently I am working part time at Fleet Farm and providing care for our son Jacob who still lives at home with us. Robin is currently working at Van Meter in Cottage Grove.

We have four children Nick, Kristen, Jacob, and Kaitlin. They all attended church school, vacation bible school, Market Place, children's choir, and other activities St. Philip's offered. Jacob and Kaitlin were baptized and all four were confirmed at St. Philip's. Kaitlin also attended St. Philip's Preschool.

Nick and his wife Jaci live in Hastings and have four daughters Evelyn, Elaine, Ellyce, and Emerie.

Kristen and her husband Dave live in Hastings and have three children Morgan, Madalyn, and Mason.

Jacob still lives at home with us and recently started a new day program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Rise, Inc. in Cottage Grove.

Kaitlin and her husband Tony live in Stillwater and have a son Jordan. He is our youngest grandchild and the picture of us is from his baptism in December.

We are blessed to have them all close to home. We get to see them often and attend the activities they are involved in.

We are also blessed to be a part of St. Philip's for the last 37 years and look forward to many more.

Blessings to all!  
Robin, Lori, and Jacob Stark

Hi from the Dales,

Our time at St. Philip's began shortly after we moved to Hastings from Stillwater in 2003. My husband, John, and I built a new home for our growing family and wanted to find a new church home, too.



After visiting St. Philip's, we knew we found the perfect church family for us. We quickly connected with Pastor Ed and met so many friendly and welcoming people.

As the years went by, our family of four became active at church with activities such as Sunday School, VBS, confirmation, family camp, and Family Fun group activities. I knew St. Philip's was special and important to us, but I truly realized it in 2017, when my husband and my kid's father passed away. Pastor Geier and the people of St. Philip's supported us and helped us through a most difficult time. We are truly blessed to be part of such a loving church community.

The kids and I continued forward as a family of three with the help of our church family and many friends. Jake continued to play D2 baseball in college and thrive academically. Jake graduated in 2020 with honors from Upper Iowa University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Conservation Management and a minor in Earth Science and a minor in Spanish. When Jake was 19 years old, he and a college baseball teammate started a company called Driftless Quality Wear. Their products can be found in various stores in the Driftless region and online at [driftlessqualitywear.com](http://driftlessqualitywear.com). In addition to his business, Jake works full time as an ecologist at Great River Greening in St. Paul. Jake spends his free time trout fishing, camping, or hanging out in the great outdoors.

In 2019, Jenna graduated from Hastings High School in the top 10% of her class. She thrived in many high school activities such as show choir and dance. At the ripe old age of 20, Jenna graduated with honors from Winona State University with a degree in

psychology. She currently attends UW-Milwaukee where she is pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Jenna is on track to graduate next year. She also works full time as a case manager for Community Care in Milwaukee. When Jenna isn't working or studying, she enjoys being with her friends exploring the fun attractions and activities in Milwaukee.

I started teaching kindergarten in 1988 and am still keeping up with my active young learners today. Retirement, however, might be right around the corner. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy working in my flower garden, walking, and traveling with Jake and Jenna. We have two more states to visit and we'll have visited all 50 states.

Jake, Jenna, and I are grateful and blessed in so many ways and know that God is good!

Julie, Jake, and Jenna Dale

## WORSHIP AT THE RIVER

On July 23, a beautiful morning, and a beautiful assembly of worshippers graced the shores of the Mississippi and held worship at the Pavilion. St. Philip's Vacation Bible School children and their leaders led the day's message through song and action. An estimated 210 people gathered at the river for the service which was part of Hastings Rivertown Celebration.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RECAP

Wow, did we party the week of July 17 at our Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School! We learned how God provides through songs, stories, crafts, games and snacks. We had 86 children come through the doors of St. Philip's. Waiting to welcome and teach them were over 40 teen/adult volunteers! It was such a blessing to witness all the joy and learning take place during VBS. I would like to thank everyone who supported VBS by volunteering, donating supplies, and praying for the project. This event was such a huge combined effort from many people and I'm grateful for each and every one of you!

To go along with our food theme, this year's VBS offering was a combination of collecting food for Hastings Family Service as well as money for the Food4Kids program here in Hastings. The kids really got excited to bring in their food each day and see if we could bring in more than the day before.

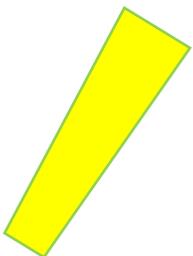
Thank you,  
Becky Kaphing, VBS Director



4 Days of Fun in Pictures  
on the next page







# 2023 August

## St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	Jul 31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30 AM Worship	1:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Faith Formation Ministry 5:30 PM CMT 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	4:00 PM Unity 5:00 PM Fellowship Ministry 6:00 PM Worship & Music Ministry	5:00 PM AAUW	11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days		8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 AM Worship	1:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Faith Formation Ministry 5:30 PM CMT 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	4:00 PM Unity 5:30 PM Prayer Team 6:30 PM Stewardship Ministry	5:00 PM AAUW	7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee		7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM ELCA National Youth Gathering Informational and Planning Meeting	1:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Preschool Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Finance Ministry	Newsletter Deadline 4:00 PM Unity 6:40 PM Lutheran Night at the Twins		11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days		8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Pie and Ice Cream Outdoor Concert at the LeDuc	1:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Council 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	4:00 PM Unity		12:00 PM Blood Drive		7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Feed My Starving Children
27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2
9:30 AM Worship	1:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Spiritual Growth 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM JoyPha Ringers	TBD Preschool Orientation 4:00 PM Unity	10:00 AM Chapel at Oak Ridge	11:45 AM Meals on Wheels		
3	4	Notes				

## Worship Leaders August 2023

	August 6 9:30	August 13 9:30	August 20 9:30	August 27 9:30
Worship Coordinator	Glenda Schnirring & Sadie Reiners	Bruce & Brenda Arndtson	Jay & Becky Ralmann	Katy Lindberg & Darla Kimmes
Greeter	Merle & Eloise Arndtson	Doug & Danna Schultz	Dan Strehlow	Darryl & Camille Nelson
Ushers	Bruce & Brenda Arndtson	Darryl & Camille Nelson	Dan Thomas & Steve Wolverton	Al & Patty Todnem
Lector	Richard Beatty	Lisa Bergert	Jennie Thomas	Glenda Schnirring
Communion Bread	Pastor Geier & Barb Jorenby	Pastor Geier & Lisa Bergert	Pastor Dorothy Sandahl & Jennie Thomas	Pastor Geier & Lori Best
Communion Wine	Darla Kimmes & Katy Lindberg	Doug & Danna Schultz	Dartene Olson & Sadie Reiners	Glenda Schnirring & Judy Werner
Sound Board				
Prayer Team				
Offering Counters	Pam Hoffman Mary Rock	Deb Frandrup Deborah Dreher	Ron Toppin Bob Cruise	Judy Hansen Denny Kohn
Music Leader/Cantor	Ryan Hummel	Julia Ronning	Jan Kochendorfer	Lori Best
Organist/Musicians	Sam Willis	Noreen Swanson Linnea Ronning	Noreen Swanson	Noreen Swanson

Please check in with the worship coordinators on the Sunday you have a duty. They will answer any questions and let you know 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 STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor

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

Noreen Swanson, Organist

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

Ellen Diischer, Coordinator of Worship Planning

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

LuAnn Roiger, Handbell Choir Director

[lroiger58@gmail.com](mailto:lroiger58@gmail.com)

Kelsey Wormley, Children's Choir Director

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

Lista Klocow, Office Manager

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

Rachel Moritz, Assistant Teacher

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

Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher

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

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### 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](http://www.splchastings.org),

YouTube and Facebook)

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