

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 2023



Sunday, December 3

**First Sunday of Advent
Philadazzle at 5:30 pm**

Sunday, December 10

**Stewardship Sunday at 9:30 am
Pancake Breakfast at 10:30 am
Family Sunday School at 10:30 am**

Sunday, December 17

Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:30 am

Thursday, December 21

**Preschool Christmas Program at 6:00 pm
A Blue Christmas Service at 7:30 pm**

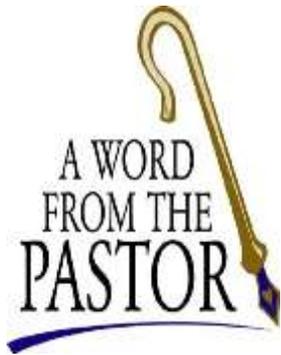
Sunday, December 24

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship at 9:30 am
Christmas Eve Worship Services at 3 and 5 pm**

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." *Luke 1:34-37*

From the gospel lesson for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

"For nothing will be impossible with God." "For nothing will be impossible with God." "For nothing will be impossible with God."



In our age of science and technology it is easy for us to dismiss those things that seem illogical or scientifically unsound. We are creatures of intellect and reason, and those very qualities are gifts from God.

However, what about the unimaginable? What about the things that just don't make any sense at all and things we cannot explain? What about things that are impossible even for God?

Wait a minute! Impossible for God? No. Not now. Not ever! Throughout Scripture and even on our own lives we hold fast to the angel's proclamation that, "nothing is impossible with God." That is the God we worship and serve and trust. Our God is awesome! Even when confronted with trials and challenges and even death, we believe our God is more powerful than anything we face in life or in death.

God formed the world by a word. God parted the Red Sea. God provided manna for the Israelites. God brought down the walls of Jericho.

Jesus turned water into wine. Jesus healed the blind, the lame, the sick, the possessed, the leprous. Jesus rose from the dead.

The Holy Spirit empowered Peter and the disciples to share the Good News. The Holy Spirit brings comfort

to those in pain. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. The Holy Spirit continues to work through the body of Christ.

This year we will be offering a new opportunity for the Holy Spirit to bring comfort as we will have a "Blue Christmas" worship service on December 21 at 7:30 pm. This is a service for those who feel at odds with or estranged from the general feeling of joy and happiness typically associated with this time of year. These may be people who have suffered a personal loss: death of a loved one, divorce, illness, or job loss. The service seeks to bring comfort by reminding us we are not alone and that all our feelings are honored. See the adjoining article to see if this is something for you.

God is involved in all areas of our lives. Knowing this gives us the courage to come boldly before the throne of grace to make our requests known. No matter how dark the night or how impossible the situation seems, we can have hope. Nothing is impossible with God!

Therefore, if God chooses to intervene in our lives, nothing will stop that intervention. So when you are faced with a difficult choice, pray for guidance. When you are hurt, pray for comfort. When you need wisdom, pray for it. When all odds are against you, pray.

As we continue our journey through Advent and into Christmas, remember that we cling to a truth that seems ridiculous to the rest of the world. Nothing is impossible with God. We have limitations. God does not! And as we seek God's will in our lives, may we each confess with Mary, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.!"

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*



Thursday, December 21 at 7:30 pm



Thursday, December 21 at 7:30 pm

Blue Christmas? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and any number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregation and community.

Some are mourning the death of a loved one. Some suffer from illness, addiction, or estrangement. Some are lonely, struggling financially, or in conflict with another. Many are dealing with mental illness in one of its many hurtful manifestations. Some hurt because of the great pain, need, and violence in our nation and world. The reasons for coming are myriad.

We will gather to worship on December 21, (the longest night of the year.) We will gather even in our suffering to remember God is good. God is strong. God is near. We are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope.

Making room for sadness, grief, and loss around Christmas is not a new concept. It is the reason for the season of Advent. Advent is often called the season of waiting. What are we waiting for? Hope. The Messiah. A Savior. Celebrating Advent is the recognition that we need a savior. That although the world may be dark, difficult, and lonely, there is a promise coming. Recognizing our loss and making space for grieving does not minimize the promise. It accentuates it.

If this service sounds like something that speaks to your life and feelings, know that there is a place for you here. Join us as we come to worship with all our "stuff" on December 21.

Preschool Chatter

The month of November was full of exciting activities learning about night creatures, healthy eating, and Thanksgiving. This month's activities included a PJ day for night creature week, a classroom grocery store, fun turkey songs/activities, and a Thanksgiving feast. We talked a lot about what it means to be thankful and how God has provided us with all the wonderful things we have in our lives. As a staff we know one of our blessings is definitely being able to do what we do and witness life through the eyes of a child every day!

We were also able to hold conferences on the evenings of November 20 and 21. This is a wonderful time to share with families about their child's progress as well as their goals moving forward this school year.

The holidays are in the air and preschool is really starting to buzz. The children started working on their Christmas program songs in early November and cannot wait to perform *The Story of Christmas* for their families and friends on December 21 at 6 pm.

Thank you to all who helped our fundraising efforts through our Raise Right. We greatly appreciate your support. We will place one more holiday order on December 5 for those who still want to give physical gift cards for the holidays. Also keep an eye out in January as we will have exciting information about the benefits of using of these cards all year long for your everyday shopping.

As we move into the Christmas season, we pray that each of you are able to enjoy the reason for the season with your families. May peace and comfort find those of you who need it most.

Christmas blessings to you all,
 Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
 Preschool Co-Directors

Giving and Expense Update

GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE		
	2023	2022
October 2023 YTD Giving		
	\$540,953.94	\$558,422.50
October 2023 YTD Expenses		
	\$467,130.14	\$509,618.30
Net		
	\$ 73,823.80	\$ 48,804.20

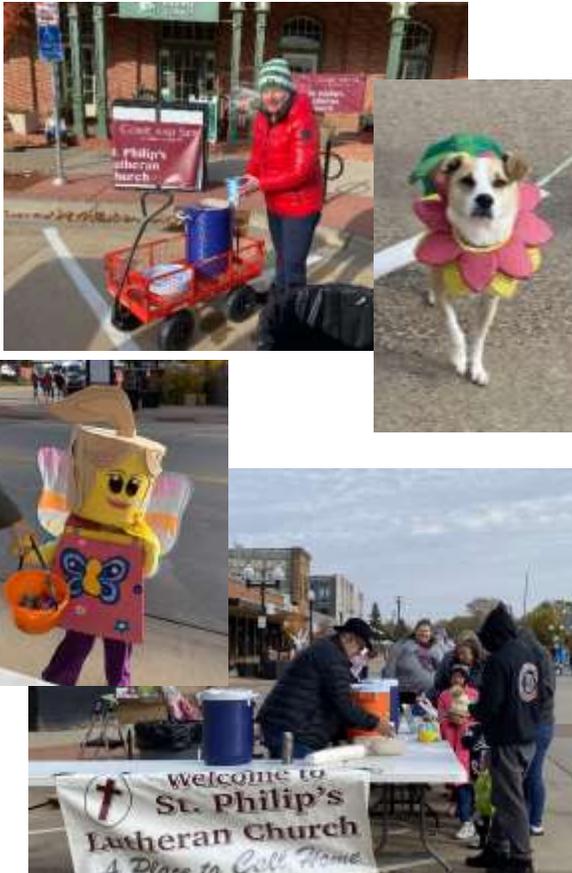
THANK YOU

THANK YOU. We wish to give you a huge thank you for all your prayers and support during the past month while dealing with the passing of our son Eric. This outpouring of support and love is a witness to the mission of St. Philip's. Blessings – Al and Patty Todnem and family

A BIG WARM thank you to all who helped make our Downtown Halloween Family Event on October 29 such a success! We had eleven hardy souls help prepare, load up supplies, set up and take down, serve, haul water, make more hot chocolate, hand out lots of candy. We served about 750 cups of much welcomed hot chocolate on a frigid Sunday afternoon. It was suggested that next year we also provide dog treats for the canines in costume!

Thank you, Cheryl Bullington, Julie Dale, Pastor Geier, Pam Hoffman Sue Karnick, Katy Lindberg, Mary Rock, Lance and Lois Twedt, Derrick Warnecke and Roland Zietlow.

Fellowship Ministry



– Among Our Own –

Sympathies to...

Jeff Lucas, Mackenzie Lucas-Kennedy and family as they mourn the death of Lynn Lucas

Sunday Scripture Readings

December 3	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
December 10	Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8
December 17	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
December 31	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

Altar Guild

On Sunday mornings help is needed setting up communion before service and cleaning up at the end of worship. It does not take that much time and the more people who can volunteer will spread the frequency you will be assigned. If you have questions or want to sign up, contact Lois Wroge (loiswroge@gmail.com) or Judy Liffrijg (liffrijg@comcast.net). Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Family Sunday School

Sunday, December 10 along with the stewardship pancake breakfast we will have a family Sunday school event with a variety of advent activities. See you there!





Sunday, December 24:
 Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship at 9:30 am
 Christmas Eve Worship at 3:00 and 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 31:
 First Sunday of Christmas - Lessons and
 Carols at 9:30 am

Holiday Worship Leaders Needed

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve worship leaders needed. Please sign up on the kiosk for the 3 and 5 pm Christmas Eve and the New Year's Eve 9:30 am worship services.

The Columbarium's Seasonal Beauty

The columbarium's beauty as late as October nearly stopped traffic on the newly opened Pleasant Drive. People driving by could see a brilliant setting of beauty encasing the names of those being honored. The maturing shrubs and the fall breeze bent the decorative grasses into rhythmic waves, giving comfort at a most unexpected place.



A bench beckons a visitor in to reflect and pray.

Reminder: Stewardship Is Here!

All households should have their mailing. Please respond to the two requests. Contents:



1. An "intention of giving" or pledge card and an envelope to mail or bring to church. Stewardship Sunday is December 10. Whatever your intention is for sharing your resources, please remit the card so we know you have thoughtfully examined your response.
2. A RSVP card for the Complimentary Pancake / Sausage breakfast after church on December 10. Please mail it back or put it in the basket on the Welcome Center by December 5. Please Come.

Cherub Choir

They are small, but they are mighty. Thank you, Gordon Wormley, for sharing your musical gift with everyone at the All Saints Sunday worship service on November 5.



New Member Reception

Darla Kimmes and Camille Nelson (Fellowship Team Chair) tend the table at the New Member reception held on November 12, when St. Philip's received four new households.



Welcome New Members

Welcome Lori and James Schultz. Lori was raised in Crookston with James enjoying his early years in Merrill, Wisconsin.

The Schultzes met each other in Crookston Minnesota. Hastings became their home in 1990, where they feel fortunate to have been able to raise their three children.



Lori's career was that of a dental hygienist for 32 years. She presently works with dental insurance at The New Art of Dentistry.

James worked for 30 years at Spector Alloys and Minnesota OSHA. Jim is now retired from the Minnesota National Guard having been in its service for 20 years. Presently Jim works once again for Spector Alloys as a forklift operator in its shipping department. He is on "grandpa duty" every Wednesday.

Lori and Jim have many hobbies such as walking their dogs, riding bikes, watching Packer (Jim) and Viking (Lori) games, gardening, listening to music, yard work, traveling and of course taking care of their grandchildren.

The Schultz's extended family is made up of three married children and five grandchildren who live nearby.

As for joining St. Philip's, the Schultzes found SPLC to be a warm and welcoming congregation which made it feel like a good fit for them. Covid had them worshiping online but when that time ended, they knew they wanted to become a part of a congregation again. They are ready to plug in to church and community activities as offered at St. Philip's.

SPLC's sponsor of Lori and Jim Schultz is Lois Wroge. The congregation extends a warm welcome to the Schultzes.

Dara Pemble grew up in Hastings, and followed her education path to Gustavus Adolphus College, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree. Dara went on to earn an MBA from Keller School of Management. Her career position is with the state of Minnesota as a Revenue Tax Specialist.



Dara lived in St. Paul for six years. Following the onset of the pandemic she decided to become a Hastings resident where she can continue her work position and see more of her family.

Dara's hobbies include spending time with her family and her pets, watching true crime documentaries, reading, taking walks and doing cross stitch.

Dara's St. Philip's sponsor is her neighbor Darlene Olson.

We heartily welcome Dara into the congregation and thank her for her participation in the Advent mural project last month.

Erik Jackson chose to return to St. Philip's, the church of his youth and Confirmation.

Erik lived away from Hastings for several years. He is the father of two children.

Being an operator of a forklift, for Up North Classics is Erik's occupation. As hobbies go, Erik loves to fish. Longtime friends of Erik's family, Patty and Al Todnem were proud to be his sponsors.



Welcome back Erik. We're delighted to have you at worship with us again.

We welcome **Dave and Dolores Pemble** to our St. Philip's congregation.

Dolores was born in Hastings and grew up in Cottage Grove. Dave's family moved to Hastings from Grand Forks,



North Dakota in 1960, due to a job transfer for his father who was with the Northern Pacific Railroad.

The Pemples were married in 1980. The occupation of Dolores is that of seamstress and owner of The Spool House and also sells Avon products. Dave is now retired from the position as Lead Nuclear Machinist with Xcel Energy.

Dave's hobbies are model trains, helping his daughters, and spoiling the grandkids. Added to that is community involvement such as four years on ISD #200 school board, first term City of Hastings Council Member at large, Meals on Wheels driver, past 4-H leader and member of Hastings' Police Reserve.

Dolores' hobbies include sewing, cross stitch, hairpin lace and over-spoiling her grandkids. In the community Dolores chairs the Hastings Public Safety Advisory Commission and is a member of Hastings' Charter Commission, drives for Meals on Wheels, is a 4-H judge at the Minnesota State Fair and past 4-H leader and active church volunteer.

The Pemble's attraction to St. Philip's is that they have felt at home due to the friendliness of the members and staff. They also recognize St. Philip's teaching of the "true Word of God". Doug and Danna Schulz are sponsors for the Pemples. The St. Philip's congregation welcomes Dave and Dolores into its church family where service to church and community is important.



Lefse Making

Two dates for lefse making happened in November for the annual Soup and Bake Sale held on November 18. Lefse and soup making is sponsored by WELCA every year for ministries within St. Philip's such as Bibles for preschoolers and 3rd grade students. Plus, a student studying in Tanzania.



Kathy Stockman, Karen Elliot and Darla Kimmes prepare for dough for the lefse rollers.



Barb Jorenby and Carolyn Schaar enjoying the annual tradition of lefse making.



Dave Weisser and Margaret Cox enjoyed the morning rolling and turning lefse.



Pastor Geier and Tim Preston turn out great sheets of lefse.

Keeping Connected

Hello! We are the Torbensen! Ana grew up in Rochester and moved to Hastings to work at the Allina Health Clinic after completing her medical training in 2019. Ana became a member of SPLC after being introduced by two of her colleagues to the welcoming congregation and wonderful community that we have come to love here. She joined them for a few different events and Sunday worships, and immediately felt at home. She looked forward to the friendly faces, inspiring words of Pastor Greg, and the philanthropy that SPLC participates in. She invited Josh to worship with her when they first started dating, and he has been hooked ever since. Josh was born and raised in Burnsville, and continues to work for his family business, RZ Mask. We met on the worldwide web and with God's grace and a little luck, we have been making each other laugh ever since. We are a family blended of Josh's husky-lab mix, Ana's chocolate lab and golden retriever, and we adopted a terrier-shepherd mix earlier this year. If you lost track, that's four dogs (yes, FOUR). We were married in a small ceremony on October 21 of this year, surrounded by our immediate family and a few close friends. We have really come to love the community that St. Philip's offers and have always felt right at home despite being newer to the congregation.



Confirmation 2023

On October 29, nine Confirmands vowed their faith to God and His church.



Confirmation Sunday ushers were Carter Lundstrom, Cameron Rowan and Peyton Thomas



Parents, sponsors, mentors and the Confirmands hear the words of Pastor Geier

Online Directory Update

It has been several years since our online directory was created, and many of our pictures could use an update. If you have a recent picture that you would like put in the directory, please send it via email to our office manager at: listak@splchastings.org or via text to Jay and Becky Raimann at 651-437-1377. Please give your family name when sending your picture. If you would like assistance, Becky and Jay will be available to take your picture after Sunday services from now until the end of the year.



Emily Wormley is shown with her Grandparents on Confirmation Sunday

Trunk or Treat

On October 29 we had our second annual trunk or treat event for our church and preschool families. We had twelve stations this year and over fifty visitors enjoyed decorated cars, games, and treats. We would like to thank our volunteers who donated their time and treats to this event. It was defiantly a chilly one this year, but we believe everyone had a good time. We also were able to deliver \$20 and three boxes of food to Food4Kids and three additional boxes to Hastings Family Service. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this project!



Worship Leaders December 2023							
	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24 4th Sunday in Advent	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 31 Lessons & Carols
Worship Coordinator	9:30 am Katy Lindberg Sadie Reiners	9:30 am Jay & Becky Raimann	9:30 am Connie Ball Mary Rock	9:30 am	3:00 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am Jay & Becky Raimann
Greeter	Pat Kohn	Tom & Cheryl Bullington	Geri Lundby			Tom and Cheryl Bullington	
Usher	Al & Gail Carstensen	Darryl & Camille Nelson	Lance & Lois Tweed		Beth Fahlstrom 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	Amy Geier 1. _____ 2. _____	1. _____ 2. _____
Lector		Tom Bullington	Darlene Olson		Pastor Geier Virginia Spence		Pastor Dorothy Sandahl
Communion Bread	Pastor Geier Marjorie Peterson	Pastor Geier Barb Jorenby	Pastor Geier Becky Raimann	Pastor Geier			
Communion Wine	Sadie Reiners, David Weisser, Richard Beatty	Cheryl Bullington Lisa Bergert	Bruce & Brenda Andtson	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____	David Tremen Owen Tremen	1. Cheryl Bullington 2. _____	1. _____ 2. _____
Acolyte	Kendyll Nelson Lucas Rowan	Reed Anderson	Hudson Hedeen Emery Hedeen	Haven Wormley			Richard Beatty Reed Anderson
Offering Counters	Deb Frandrup Deborah Dreher	Ron Toppin Bob Cruse	Judy Hansen Denny Kohn	Pam Hoffman Mary Rock			Jennie Thomas
Prayer Team	Geri Holmseth	Yonnie Olson	Judy Werner	Barb Jorenby			
Music Leader/Cantor	Kelsey Wormley	Ryan Hummel		Becky Raimann	Darlene Olson	Raul Jackson	Kelsey Wormley
Organist/Musicians	Sam Willis	Noreen Swanson Unity	Sam Willis Children's Choir	Noreen Swanson Bell Choirs	Noreen Swanson Joy/Phil Ringers	Noreen Swanson Unity	Sam Willis Children's Choir
	unveil the mural	Stewardship Commitment Sunday	Sunday School Program				Guest Pastor Dorothy Sandahl
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)							

Worship Leaders needed for December 24 and 31. Please sign up. Your help is needed.

2023 December

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	Nov 30	1	2 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Education Hour 11:30 AM Faith Formation 5:30 PM Philadazzle 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	4 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM CMT 6:15 PM Youth/Phil Ringers 7:00 PM Joy/Phil Ringers	5 4:00 PM Unity 5:00 PM Fellowship Ministry 6:00 PM Worship & Music Ministry	6 5:00 PM Cherub Choir 5:30 PM Children's Choir 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	7 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 12:00 PM Hastings Ministerial 1:00 PM Do Days	8	9 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
10 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Pancake Breakfast 10:30 AM Family Sunday School 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	11 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Preschool Ministry 6:15 PM Youth/Phil Ringers 6:30 PM Finance Ministry 7:00 PM Joy/Phil Ringers	12 4:00 PM Unity 5:30 PM Prayer Team 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry	13 11:00 AM Preschool Chapel 5:00 PM Cherub Choir 5:30 PM Children's Choir 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	14 9:30 AM WELCA Meeting / Circle Bible Study 11:00 AM Preschool Chapel 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal
17 9:30 AM Worship / Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30 AM Education Hour / NO Sunday School 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	18 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Council 6:15 PM Youth/Phil Ringers 7:00 PM Joy/Phil Ringers	19 4:00 PM Unity	20 10:00 AM Preschool Christmas Party 10:00 AM Chapel at Oak Ridge 5:00 PM Cherub Choir 5:30 PM Children's Choir 6:45 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	21 10:00 AM Preschool Christmas Party 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days 6:00 PM Preschool Christmas Program 7:30 PM Blue Christmas Service	22 NO Preschool	23 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
24 CHRISTMAS EVE No Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Worship 5:00 PM Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY NO Preschool Office Closed	26 NO Preschool NO Preschool 4:00 PM Unity	27 NO Preschool NO Confirmation 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	28 NO Preschool	29 NO Preschool	30 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
31 No Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship / Lessons & Carols 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	Jan 1	Notes				

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor

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Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher

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ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541

www.splchastings.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service:

In Person and Livestream Worship at 9:30 am

(Livestream link on www.splchastings.org,

YouTube and Facebook)

Sunday Education Hour:

Adult Forum at 10:30 am in the Learning Room

Sunday School at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

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