

# The Philippian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Philip's Lutheran Church of Hastings, Minnesota

Come and Worship...Come and Serve...Come and Learn...Come as you are  
...Philip said to him, "Come and see" John 1:46

## JANUARY 2024

Financial Peace University  
Tuesdays January 9 – March 5 at 6 pm

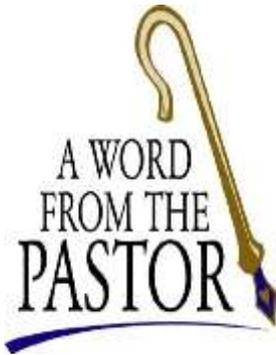
Adult Forum and Sunday School  
Sundays following Worship  
January 14

Preschool Raise Right Fundraiser  
Continues

Grief Support Quarterly Meeting  
January 31 at 6 pm

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

John 1:43-46



In our Gospel lesson for January 14, the second Sunday after Epiphany, we read of Jesus' calling of the first disciples in John's Gospel. It also happens to be the verse in which our congregation received its namesake. We are St. Philip's Lutheran Church because

Pastor Boxrud, our first pastor saw in Philip qualities our charter members hoped to emulate, namely to be a congregation actively inviting others into a discipleship relationship with Jesus. Hence, "Come and see" became a de facto call to action.

Up to this point in chapter 1 Jesus has been relatively passive in the narrative as he received the disciples passed on to him by John. Now Jesus acts. He finds Philip and calls to him, 'Follow me'. Jesus hasn't said a lot in the narrative so far. But what he has said has been telling: What do you want? Come and See. Follow me!

We hear an initial probing question, followed by an invitation to investigate, and then finally a demand to discipleship. Let's respond to the voice of Jesus and invite others to do the same.

Philip responds in verse 45 by finding Nathanael and announcing to him the one Moses and the Prophets wrote about has been found. Once again, we are reminded of the deep Old Testament roots behind Jesus and the expectations of the people Jesus came to. Philip's response mirrors the response of Andrew the previous day.

We see that good news is for sharing. As soon as he had met and understood something of Jesus' identity Philip immediately went and shared it with someone he knew. John is showing us that the appropriate

response to meeting and knowing Jesus is to share him with others.

Nathanael is initially skeptical about what he hears about Jesus, especially in the light of Jesus' human origins. 'Nazareth, can anything good come from there?' Philip simply echoes Jesus's words. He urges Nathanael to put aside his reservations and simply 'Come and see'.

As 21<sup>st</sup> century disciples, we do well to be reminded of our namesake. What will it take for us to extend an invitation to a friend or neighbor to, "Come and see!?" What would it take to extend the invitation more than once? What would it take to share the difference Jesus and the community of faith named after St. Philip has made in your life?

We have good news to share and I am blessed to witness how God is working in your lives. I am confident that we all know people who would benefit from the Christian fellowship and connectedness that the Holy Spirit has blessed us. I am also confident that we all know people who are waiting for an invitation to, "Come and see!" This invitation worked for Jesus. It worked for Philip. It has worked for almost 2,000 years and will continue to work as St. Philip's Lutheran Church embodies our call to action. Thank you for your witness!

*Your Servant in Christ,*

*Pastor Geier*

---

## Sunday Scripture Readings

January 7	Genesis 1:1-5 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11
January 14	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
January 21	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
January 28	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

## THANK YOU...

Thank you to all those who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child this year. Because of your love and generosity, Forty-three children and their families have the opportunity to feel God's love and hear about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission to send "Good news and Great joy!"

*Emily Preston and Robyn Tank*

Thank you to the members of St. Philip's who supported our Soup and Bake Sale on Saturday, November 18. Many, many people gave a whole lot of hours to make this one-day event a success: lefse makers, vegetable peelers and choppers, kitchen support staff, bakers, set-up and clean-up crew, and all others who lent a hand. Thanks to the members of the congregation who came to buy baked and canned goods. A big 'THANK YOU' to everybody who told somebody else about this sale. A huge shout-out to Lista for all her logistical support, including communication and signs. In addition to the baked and canned goods donated by our members, we sold over one hundred sixty packages of lefse and almost twenty-five gallons of soup! We raised over \$4,600 in just 3 ½ short hours (and Sunday morning, of course!!)

New to the event this year was a very exciting QUILT SALE sponsored by the Do Days crew. This enterprising and ambitious group offered thirty-nine quilts, selling twenty-seven of them, and sold 6 of the 10 'burp' cloths they presented. They made \$2,605 for their ongoing mission.

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

*Susan Cruse, Pam Hoffman, Kathy Stockman, and Geneva and David Weisser, bake/soup sale co-chairs, Jennie Thomas, Bernita Weber Do-Days Co-Facilitators*

My Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for making my "Fabulous 90<sup>th</sup>" birthday celebration so special in so many ways.

*Geri Holmseth*

To my St. Philip's family, thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl, the cards and the prayers that you lifted up as I'm recovering from a recent fall.

Peace and Joy,  
*Kathy Stockman*

Thank you for all the prayers and cards through my recent surgeries. The power of prayers is amazing. It's wonderful to have the support of so many.

*Linda Brommer*

Thank you St. Philip's family for all of the calls, texts, cards, emails, and visits during my recent surgery and recovery. Your prayers and words of support are greatly appreciated and have meant so much. I hope to be back and active in worship very soon!

*Lori Best*

Thank you to each and every person who supported the Christmas "Gift A Senior" Program for Augustana Care Center. We reached our goal! Because of you, forty-five residents received a gift for Christmas! Thank you for giving of your resources to help put a smile on each resident's face! Also, everyone who contributed by purchasing a gift, you also helped support St. Philip's Youth programs. Together we make a difference in the lives of our community and our own children! God bless you! Merry Christmas!

*Kathy Willis*

Forty-four Precious Moments found new homes this month. Duane and Avis Hunstad donated part of their collection to our preschoolers. Each child received their own Precious Moment to take home for Christmas. What a truly special gift for our students! Thank you Duane and Avis.



# Preschool Chatter

Happy New Year!

Working in a Christian preschool in the month of December is such a wonderful blessing! Our classrooms were very busy and exciting with the holiday. Throughout the month of December learning the true meaning of Christmas with stories/songs, projects and our special mouse visitor from the story *Mouse and the Miracle*. This mouse visits our classroom once a week in December and reminds us the reason of the season and how to share God's love with one another. He also brings special notes and gifts to share with the children including an advent calendar and the M&M prayer/treat.

Our children were also busy making gifts for their families, decorating class Christmas trees, listening to stories, and even a class Christmas party. One special part of our Christmas party was our second annual book exchange. Children each wrapped a book, wrote a little note, and then exchanged books. This activity really helps promote what giving is all about in such a fun way.

A huge blessing for our families and staff every year is that our evening Christmas program was able to be held on December 21 with all four classes singing together. The children work so hard on practicing their songs and it really is a magical evening for everyone. Hearing the story of Jesus' birth from these special children is truly a gift for everyone involved.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in our Raise Right gift card fundraiser! We were able to raise over \$560 to spend on "fun extra" things we would not have been able to afford otherwise! Be sure to look for more information on how we plan to expand our Raise Right fundraiser to more of a year round event in 2024. Our next goal is to fund our spring field trip to Carpenter Nature Center for all of our students.

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

*Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein*  
Preschool Co-Directors

## Classroom Giggles

Miss Lorelei and Miss Rachel overheard something cute during class recently and had to share. The preschoolers had combined the Zoo train with pieces from the Nativity. Jesus in the Manger fit perfectly in a hammock at the back of the train. Then one of them said, "Who wants to join the Jesus Train?"

All Aboard!




---

## – Among Our Own –

*Congratulations to...*

**Ada Gray Zuzek** (daughter of Alex and Aleaha Zuzek) blessings on her baptism

**Margot Louise Butze** (daughter of Luke and Ali Butze) blessings on her baptism

*Sympathies to...*

**Tony and Al Sieben and family** as they mourn the death of their brother Leander

**Avis Hunstad and family** as they mourn the death of her sister Ardis Petterson

**Duane Hunstad and family** as they mourn the death of his sister Joan Rousseau

## Food Rescue / Community in Action

Thanks for everyone who has helped with food rescue this year at Hastings Family Service. Three Mondays a month, a St. Philip’s team goes in to sort through the food donated by Cub, Coborn’s and Walmart. Food that can be salvaged is given out to individuals that week. Most donations are produce, meat and bakery products. This keeps food out of the landfills and helps those in need.

In 2023, forty-four different volunteers helped with this project. The record for one day was 2,200 pounds! Wow.

New volunteers in the last half of the year include: Pastor Geier, Stacy Carlson, Deb Frandrup, Jan Kochendorfer, Robyn Tank, Dave and Dolores Pemble, and Earl and Kathy Stockman.

Thanks to everyone who has helped and to Tom Bullington who manages the Sign Up Genius, and to Ron Toppin and Al Todnem for being the lead volunteers.

## Preschool Raise Right Fundraiser

We are excited to be expanding our Raise Right sales beyond our holiday sales. After talking with new member Dolores Pemble she has explained to us that this could be a year-round fundraiser. These cards can be used more like cash cards and some of them are even reloadable. In a world with so much credit card fraud these cards give you the option to purchase these cards by paying with a check/cash to us and use the cards instead of your credit card. Raise Right has hundreds of stores. Our forms just have some of the many options. You can go on to the website, [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com), to find more stores.

We will be running a trial for six months to see how it goes. If it goes well, we will do it on a monthly basis. So, for January – June we will have orders due the third Sunday of the month. Forms can be found on the welcome center. Please see Dolores or Becky at church or email [preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org) with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

---

## Grief Support

Beginning in January, we will be beginning a simple ministry of grief support. These quarterly meetings will be an opportunity for St. Philipians who have experienced loss to support one another through the shared experience of learning to live without a loved one. The meetings will be facilitated by Camille Johnson-Oster, but will go in the direction the participants need/desire. Each meeting will have a theme; our Wednesday, January 31 theme will be a discussion of the changes that loss brings. We will meet at 6:00 pm. Please join us if you feel this is a fit for you.

---

## Adult Spiritual Growth for January

Please join us in the Learning Room after worship each Sunday for some thought provoking discussion.

January 7: Chuck Clanton will lead a topic from *The Wired Word*. Check the Friday email for the topic of the day

January 14: Lisa Bergert will lead the adult form on the topic of domestic violence. What is the definition? Who are the victims? What are the characteristics of an abuser? How can our faith community support and help those who are experiencing it? The forum includes the Ted Talk video, “Why domestic violence victims don’t leave” from the author of “Crazy Love”, Leslie Morgan Steiner.

January 21: Something new! Pastor Geier will take questions and comments on the day’s sermon and lead further discussion of the texts of the day. If this seems helpful, it may become a recurring feature of our programming. Come check it out!

January 28: Budget review: the finance committee will present the proposed budget for the 2024 church year and entertain questions about it in preparation for the annual meeting in February.

---

## Giving and Expense Update

GIVING AND EXPENSE UPDATE		
	2023	2022
November 2023 YTD Giving		
	\$606,423.21	\$620,246.35
November 2023 YTD Expenses		
	\$525,434.52	\$548,939.93
Net		
	\$ 80,988.69	\$ 71,306.42

## Financial Peace University

According to a study by the Ramsey Solutions research team, 40% of Americans say their financial situation has caused them to lose sleep in the past month. If that's you, it's time to make a change. Take the first step and take back control of your finances by signing up for the Financial Peace University class at <https://www.fpu.com/4DE132>. Class (and better sleep) starts on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:00 pm here at St. Philip's. Ready? Let's do this. Questions? contact Sam Willis who will lead these classes.

---

## Remembering Jean Boxrud

News came to St. Philip's the week of December 11, that Jean Boxrud (94) passed away in her home in Hettinger, North Dakota, on December 2. Jean was the wife of St. Philip's first pastor, Robert Boxrud, (1967-1971), who gave St. Philip's its name and foundational beginning. Pastor Boxrud passed away March 17, 2021.



The Boxruds had four children, Mark, Shelly, Daniel, and Leeann, while living in the parsonage on Honeysuckle Lane. Shelly Boxrud lost her life in a car accident after their relocation to Hettinger, North Dakota. She is memorialized on the plaque in St. Philip's Fellowship Room.

Jean is remembered for her warmth and participation in St. Philip's development. She also served as a nurse at Regina Hospital. Those who knew her remember her concise manner of speaking, and her rendering an arched eye brow when she wanted to make a point. We also enjoyed Jean's beautiful singing voice.

The St. Philip's congregation extends its condolences to Mark, Daniel, Leeann and the Hettinger community which reaped the values of kindness and good will that Robert and Jean Boxrud left to those they served.

Notes of condolences and memories may be sent to Leeann Lutz, 304 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Hettinger, ND 58639.

## Confirmation Mentors

It's that time again! Lenten Mentors is a long-standing St. Philip's tradition. For years, confirmands and their mentors have met over Lent to build relationships with each other and with God. Confirmation students will be looking for Adult Mentors, February-March. This involves working with a 6-9<sup>th</sup> grader five times (30-40 minutes each time) with Bible study and reflection questions. Interested? Sign up on the kiosk or call the office to be added to the list and you will be matched up with a confirmation student. Orientation meeting on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 pm.

---

## Columbarium

St. Philip's provides care for its members from birth and baptism through death and eternal life. The church offers a final resting place option for its members and their families – a church home columbarium. A columbarium is a group of small compartments, or niches, designed to hold the cremated remains of our loved ones. The columbarium is located east of the church building along Pleasant Drive. The columbarium has 80 niches and includes a beautiful peace garden for visiting family and friends. Application folders for those who are interested in leasing a niche are available at the welcome center. For more information, call Gary McDougall at 651-216-7213 or Judy Hansen at 612-600-1209.



## Online Directory Update

Thank you to those who have provided updated pictures for our directory. If you have not done so yet, a recent picture can be sent to our office manager at: [listak@splchastings.org](mailto:listak@splchastings.org) or via text to Jay and Becky Raimann at 651- 437-1377. This would be much appreciated! Printed copies for those with limited access to computers will be available in March.



# ANNUAL MEETING



**FEBRUARY 4, 2024**  
**10:45 am**  
**In Person and Via Zoom**

On Sunday, February 4 at 10:45 am St. Philip's Lutheran Church will conduct our congregation's annual meeting in person and via Zoom. At this meeting we will accept reports from our staff ministry team and lay ministry team leaders, vote on lay leadership for the coming year and approve a budget.

This year our church council voted to evenly distribute the tithe of our miscellaneous income between two local ministries within Hastings and two ministries beyond Hastings area. They are:

#### Local Ministries:

- Hastings Family Service - provides a variety of emergency and support services
- Food 4 Kids - provides weekend meals for children who don't have enough to eat

#### Ministries Beyond the Hastings Area:

- 211 United Way which serves youth mental health in Dakota County
- My Very Own Bed (Minnesota) which provides beds for children transitioning to permanent housing

In the future if you have a ministry that you would like to be considered please let a council member or the Pastor know.

We will still need a quorum to complete these important matters and we anticipate that everything should take less than an hour, so please plan on participating. Like in previous years we will keep record of all those participating.

Annual Reports will be available to the congregation on January 21. There will be a budget review forum on Sunday, January 28 to discuss the budget prior to the annual meeting. The Zoom link will be available to you as we get closer to the annual meeting.

## Annual Meeting Potluck

St. Philip's annual business meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4 at 10:45 am with a potluck lunch to follow.

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

Last names beginning with...  
 A-I Dessert      J-R Main Dish      S-Z Salad

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

## Children's Time

Pastor Geier, gathered the children around the font on December 10, and spoke about Baptism and John the Baptist.



## SPLC in the Community

Lois Twedt is seen volunteering her time for Salvation Army's Christmas Fund Drive by Cub Foods in mid-December. Giving of one's time and talent is all a part of our Christian calling as good stewards.



## A New Year Blessing...

*"Wishing you gratitude for years past,  
 joy in the present,  
 and hope for the future."*

### Advent Mural

On December 1, the exciting Advent mural painted by fifty-nine members was moved from the old sanctuary to the new sanctuary to celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. The mural came out of the Stewardship Ministry Team's theme "Community Grows Here". The installing team was lead organizer, Al Todnem, Bob Cruse, Dave Pemble, Dan Strehlow and Ron Toppin. The mural's beauty and knowing it was done by St. Philip's members suggests that working together builds spirit and good will among those participating and those who are served. The Christmas promise as stated on the mural is an image of peace and comfort to all who view it.



### Family Sunday School

On December 10 all families had the opportunity to share in some fun fellowship. Marjorie Peterson shared *The Friendly Beast* story which was so fun because that's what the Christmas program was based off of. Then families could rotate between four different craft stations.



## Stewardship Sunday

Following the worship where response cards were brought forward for 2024, a breakfast was served for the hundred and twenty people who had responded. The fellowship hall was adorned in table coverings representing the Advent mural of blue, purple, pink, and green. Tent card centerpieces made my Lista Klocow, depicting the theme “Community Grows Here” were on each table. Everyone enjoyed the morning.

The kitchen pancake and sausage team was Bruce Arndtson, Tim Preston, Mary Rock, Dave Tank and Alex Zuzek. Brenda Arndtson and Emily Preston tended the dining room with fruit cups, milk and coffee. Jeannie Evans along with Chris and Eli helped with set up on Saturday and assisted in the kitchen on Sunday. Robyn Tank did the gluten free pancakes on Sunday. Kent Hoffman and Al Todnem, did dishes, plus Pam Hoffman and Patty Todnem helped with the large clean up. Sam Willis secured the pancake mix and syrup, Glenda Schnirring was the breakfast coordinator.



*Alex Zuzek enjoying his first year doing pancakes for the annual breakfast*



*There was never a wait with all pancakes and sausages done by the time worship was out*



*Bruce Arndtson manages the range grill to keep up with the crowd*



### Philadazzle 2023

A Taste of Scandinavia, was a great evening of food, fellowship, and music for seventy-seven of our congregation, friends and family. After sparkling juice and a tasty meal, we were entertained by Al Todnem, who read from his book, *Cream and Bread*, and told stories of his Norwegian heritage. Eagan Men's Chorus entertained us with songs of the season, along with our own Raul Jackson.

Big thank yous to Troop 23 for help serving and cleaning up; Paul Hellen, John Diischer and Lance Twedt for tech help; Lista Klocow for printing; Wayne and Beth Fahlstrom for their wonderful handmade meatballs aided by Earl Stockman; and the Philadazzle steering committee for their months of planning and work to make it a success: Gladys Campbell, Deb Frandrup, Margaret Goderstad, Raul Jackson, Gerri Lundby, Camille Nelson, Lois Twedt, David Weisser, Geneva Weisser, Lois Wroge.



*Wayne Campbell being served a beverage by a member of Boy Scout Troop 23*



*George Kimmes and Diane Filkins enjoying conversation*



*Denny and Pat Kohn enjoy some social time with Erik Jackson*



*Raul Jackson enjoyed sharing the evening with family members he had invited*



*Dave and Dolores Pemble invited friends to enjoy St. Philips' Philadazzle*



*Lois Wroge and Lois Twedt were "kitchen captains" while Boy Scout Troop 23 did the serving*



*Ten fine Scouts from Troop 23 happily delivered wonderful service to the guests*



*Wayne and Beth Fahlstrom are to be thanked for coordinating the making of the meatballs for the buffet*



*Raul Jackson (second from left) is a member of the Eagan Men's Chorus who presented many wonderful selections in the sanctuary following the dinner*



*Al Todnem relates some memories from his Norwegian heritage after the dinner*



## Keeping Connected

Yes, 2023 was a plethora of activity here at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. I want to highlight one of them - The Advent Mural which graces our sanctuary.



*Gerri is from  
Nome, North  
Dakota*

When talk began in one of our Stewardship meetings and I listened to the amount of time and energy and hard work involved to make it happen, I was skeptical. It was overwhelming! But I forgot the tenacity and the good old-fashioned roll up your sleeves and let's get to work attitude of our members.

We have to thank Al Todnem and his team for their vision and their love of St. Philip's that made this happen. I will not attempt to name all the people who were involved and worked with Al. I most surely would forget someone but you know who you are.

The First Sunday in Advent was the unveiling for all to see. It just so happened that I had a nasty cold that day so I saw it first online. I was overwhelmed by the MAJESTY and the BEAUTY of the mural! In my mind, I also saw all the people from young to old who participated in the painting. What a wonderful feeling of pride they must have knowing that they had a part in this. Brothers and Sisters in Christ working side by side and forming new friendships! It does take a village to raise a child! We are that village!

I have to tell you that the Second Sunday in Advent, I saw it in person! I was overwhelmed! It is simply a work of art and love! Did you notice that the mural reflects onto the altar? Everything once again reinforces why I love SPLC. We moved to Hastings in 1974 and we became members of SPLC in 1974.

Some of you know that I have a reputation for being an emotional slob! I don't care! I love SPLC and all of my brothers and sisters here. And that is a wrap for 2023! I can't wait to see what wonderful things will happen in 2024!

Warm Friendship and Always Love,  
Gerri Lundby

P.S. When I call you to ask if you will tell your story for the next newsletter, please say YES! (I can't help it; I always have to put in a plug for the newsletter stories. That's my job, folks!)

Hello from the Ling Family!

Tom and I both grew up in Hastings, although we didn't cross paths until our senior year of college. We met in St. Cloud when I was working at an



internship and Tom was attending college. We moved back to Hastings following graduation and enjoy calling Hastings home today, especially with most of our immediate family and friends nearby. We were married in August 2020 and welcomed our first child, Jameson Joel Ling, in September 2023. Our home also includes a sweet little chocolate lab named Grizz who we absolutely adore. Tom is an Electrician working for an electrical contractor out of Stillwater, Minnesota and Michelle works in Human Resources for a manufacturing company in Red Wing.

Growing up, Tom and I were both actively involved in youth programs at our respective churches and frequently reflect on how much we learned and the memories and friendships made that we continue to carry with us today. My family (The Willises) attended Sunday church regularly and my brother Sam and I participated in many youth programs; children's choir, VBS, confirmation, mission trips, bible camp and many others. Our family also attended Green Lake bible camp for many years, a very memorable part of summertime and my faith journey when I was young. I look forward to continuing to watch my nieces and nephews participating in these programs and our entire family actively involved in the church through various programs, volunteer opportunities and committees.

St. Philip's has been and continues to be an important part of our faith journey and milestone moments for our family. We were married by Pastor Geier in the summer of 2020, and are excited for Jameson's upcoming baptism at St. Philip's in January 2024. I'm incredibly grateful for the friendships, faith, and support that St. Phillip's has brought to my family and look forward to raising our family in this faith community.

Greetings from Steve Wolverton. Thank you for the opportunity to share a bit of my life at St. Philip's.



My wife Joyce and I moved to Dakota County from Richfield in 1991. (We were married at House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield where Art and Kathy Luedtke's son is now a Pastor, it's a small world).

After moving we went to Sunday services with my grandmother at Martin Luther Manor in Bloomington until her passing in 1999. We began searching for a new church home and attended services in Rosemount, Farmington, Eagan and Hastings as they are all a similar distance from our home. After a wonderful Christmas Eve Candlelight service at St. Philip's, we decided to 'come and see' the following Sunday and have been coming ever since. It still took us a couple of years before we became members. Sadly, Joyce passed away in 2020 but I have continued my attendance here to stay grounded in my church family.

Many things have happened in my life that I never thought were good or positive at the time. But I heard this once and try to repeat it often "**It's not what I prayed for, but it's the answer to my prayers.**" One of those things was getting a DWI in 1991 that led to my sobriety. Another was to continue coming to St. Philip's in the wake of adverse events in life. I get a lot more than I give. Thank you, everyone!

I am on the Building and Grounds committee, a small commitment in time. It still allows time for other activities. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those that helped move the big ladder and fix the window shades on the South wall of the Sanctuary, and continued support in the Sanctuary light bulb changing. Our grounds require a lot of time in the garden areas and many people help to keep our place looking good. Thanks for your help! Asking for assistance is not my strong suit and I thank Glenda and Greg for being my voice.

I spent twenty-seven years as a cleaner, mechanic and later an Inspector at Republic and Northwest Airlines and some skills are transferrable to building maintenance. I do what I can, I am not an expert, but

I continue with this activity because it is an area where I think I can be of service. I continue to learn new things from others all the time!

I envy (a sin I know) the many talents others enjoy. Music, eloquence in writing and speaking, utilizing technology are just some of the things I wish I were able to do better and I'm glad we have volunteers in these areas! I sometimes usher at our Sunday Services. Our annual church garage sale is another activity where I spend some time. I'm lucky that I have time and physical ability to carry stuff and make minor repairs. It's also a great time to get to know people better. I am a blood donor as well, an easy thing to do for those of us who are able. There are too many who cannot through no fault of their own.

From the photo, you can see I ring sleigh bells at the Salvation Army kettle. (Joyce picked out my outfit when my hair turned white) It's something I've done for several years now as a way of giving back to my community.

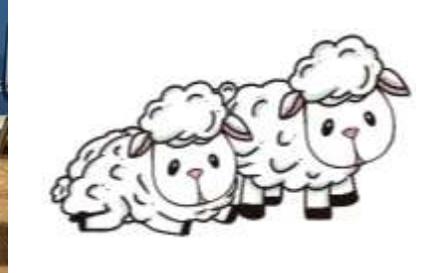
I'm also involved with the Department of Natural Resources Firearms Safety Classes. I try to be participate in several different activities and find myself getting frustrated at times when I 'perceive' a lack of participation from others, but must remind myself "I'm sure they give their time and talents in many ways of which I am unaware".

Yours in Christ,  
Steve



## Sunday School Christmas Program

On Sunday December 17 eighteen young people ages 3-16 participated in our Christmas program. This year's program was *The Friendly Beast*. The children took on many roles from speaking, playing music, and acting out the different roles. It is such a blessing to have the children share the Christmas story with the congregation!





**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)

---

**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)

**Sunday Education Hour:**

Adult Forum at 10:30 am in the Learning Room

Sunday School at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

*affix label here*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #148  
Hastings, MN 55033

St. Phillip's Lutheran Church  
1401 West 15th Street  
Hastings, MN 55033  
\*\*Return Service Requested  
TIME DATED MATERIAL