

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*

June 2024

Graduate Recognition Sunday
June 2

Garage & Plant Sale
June 8 from 8 am-3 pm

Campfire Conversations
June 19 at 6:30 pm

Outdoor Worship
June 23 at 9:30 am

Mary Fischer Memorial
Scholarship Deadline
June 30

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Mark 4:30-32

From the Gospel for June 16

The kingdom of God was the central theme of Jesus' earthly ministry. Over and over again Jesus sought to help people understand what God's plan was for creation and how Jesus was going to bring it about. One of Jesus' most useful teaching methods was the parable. Using analogies and metaphors, Jesus was able to take the common stuff of life on earth and give it a heavenly meaning.



For instance, in our gospel text for June 16, Jesus shares the parable of the mustard seed. From this parable, our Lord teaches us still many important truths about God's kingdom.

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD STARTS SMALL.

In comparing the kingdom of God to a mustard seed, Jesus makes it clear that when God's plans start, they may be seen as tiny or insignificant by the world. However, God does not see as the world sees. The Christian church was started with eleven men and some faithful women, certainly less than twenty people all told. This small group was given a phenomenal undertaking. And yet that is how God chose to share the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. And it worked!

THE KINGDOM OF GOD GROWS.

Just as the mustard plant grew from a tiny seed so the Christian church grew from a tiny group of faithful followers. Those men and women could have stayed behind locked doors and been content with the knowledge that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, but the news of the resurrection was too good to keep to themselves. And so they shared the gospel and others came to believe that this person Jesus was indeed the promised Savior for all people.

The kingdom of God also grows within each of us as we continue to grow in our faith journeys. As the seeds of our faith are nurtured through word and sacrament

and fellowship we grow spiritually as Christian disciples.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD PROVIDES SHELTER AND A PLACE OF REFUGE.

Just as the mustard plant in Jesus' parable "puts forth large branches so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade," the kingdom of God provides a sanctuary where we know we will experience true peace. The kingdom of God provides a place we can all call "home."

I give thanks to God that I have been able to witness the coming of God's kingdom in and through many of our ministries at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. The tiny seeds of ideas have been planted and are growing. From our quilting ministry to our involvement with Hastings Family Service and Meals on Wheels to our hospitality ministries to working together on clean-up days or serving together at Feed My Starving Children it is clear that we are experiencing the final truth of Jesus' parable: THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS ALIVE! Thanks be to God as we continue to live and grow together for the glory of God.

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*

Sunday Scripture Readings

June 2	Deuteronomy 5:12-15 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Mark 2:23-3:6
June 9	Genesis 3:8-15 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35
June 16	Ezekiel 17:22-24 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, [11-13], 14-17 Mark 4:26-34
June 23	Job 38:1-11 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41
June 30	Lamentations 3:22-33 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43

Preschool Chatter

It's hard to believe another year of preschool has come to an end. As mentioned in last month's newsletter the children got to enjoy their spring field trip to Carpenter Nature Center on April 30. The morning started off with a yummy pancake breakfast made by Pastor, Amy Geier, Lois Wroge, Camille and Darryl Nelson. Many thanks to them for making it such a special day.



Then the clouds moved out, we loaded the bus, and went to explore our 5 senses in nature.



May was a busy and exciting month for our students. Our themes for the month included Five Senses, Farm Babies, Butterflies, and Summer plans. The highlight of this month included watching our class caterpillars transform from caterpillars to chrysalis and eventually to butterflies! On May 23 and 24 we hold our end of the year programs. The children will be able to share some of their favorite preschool songs/story with their families, receive their portfolios and diplomas, and share in a little last day fellowship with friends.

We would really like to thank all the members of St. Philip's church for their prayers, donations, and kind words of support. We greatly appreciate your participation in the ongoing RaiseRight card fundraiser. So far this school year, we have been able to cover all costs for our spring field trip to Carpenter Nature Center, order new advertising banners, and are nearly halfway to our goal of replenishing the playground woodchips. The woodchip depth has dropped below safe levels since they were first installed a decade ago. Thank you again for helping us keep our students safe!

We feel so blessed to be able to work with so many young children in such a wonderful setting! We are grateful for the outstanding support we receive from the members of St. Philip's. With your support we are able to continue to offer an exceptional preschool experience for children in our community. For many of our children it is the first academic and religious experience they have had and we are proud to serve them well in both of these areas. Thank you for supporting this important ministry of St. Philip's!

We hope you all have a wonderful summer making new memories with your families!

Your Preschool Staff,



*Rachel Moritz, Becky Kaphing
Lorelei Rein and Kari Vortherms*

Thank You...

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the park cleanup this May. It was a little cold and wet, but we got it done. Notice the great picker devices supplied by the City. Makes the job much easier!



We Came...
We Served...
We Fed Hungry People!



Twenty-six youth and adults caravanned on May 1 to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. There, along with some other groups and individuals, we packed 27,648 meals. That is enough to feed 76 people for an entire year! We had teams taking turns doing different tasks on the assembly line and as you can see above, we ROCKED our hairnets! Special thanks are due to Jennifer Anderson Slostad, Kristian Ronning, Scott Stewart, Carlos Villavicencio, and Matt Wormley for driving and/or providing adult leadership.



– Among Our Own –

Sympathies to...

Al and Tony Sieben and family as they mourn the death of their sister Sister Petrann Sieben

Quentin Nelson and family as they mourn the death of his mother Lois Brown

	2024	2023
April 2024 YTD General and Misc Giving		
	\$197,423.60	\$162,370.81
April 2024 YTD Capital Fund		
	\$63,771.00	\$51,906.50
April 2024 YTD Expenses		
	\$214,165.24	\$189,451.48
Net		
	\$47,029.36	\$24,825.83
April 2024 YTD Mortgage Principal Required		
	\$32,472.79	\$29,880.22

Giving and Expense Update



Stay Tuned to Meet Nick Clark, Our Interim Director of Youth Ministries!

Hat Day

May 12, had been announced as a Sunday to "wear a hat if you wish day." Hats are a fun fashion that about 25 women and girls chose to wear on May 12.

Seen here are Glenda Schnirring and Patty Todnem.





St. Philip's will be celebrating with our high school graduating seniors on Sunday, June 2 at our 9:30 am worship! Join us as we congratulate and support these neat young men and women as they commemorate this milestone!

College Graduate Recognition

The high school graduating class of 2020 had their senior year disrupted and were not able to have a formal graduation recognition due to COVID. St. Philip's would like to recognize them for their perseverance. Listed are members of this class who will graduate from college by the end of the year. Some, remarkably, graduated in three years (2023)! Congratulations to these young people for their accomplishments.

Max Flaten	University of Dubuque (2023)
Faith Forstad	University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Sarah Gathje	Winona State University
Julia Herber	University of Wisconsin-River Falls
Daniel Krey	Drake University (2023)
Shannon Kustrich	University of Wisconsin-River Falls (2023)
McKenzie Langenfeld	Winona State University
Taylor Larson	University of Minnesota-Carlson School of Management
Meghan McNamara	University of Minnesota (2023)

Help Needed

We are looking for someone to help sew confirmation stoles and first communion banners. We are looking to get a supply of both these items ready in advance. We don't need them until September. Please reach out to Pastor Geier or Becky Kaphing if you are able to help.

Calling All Heroes Young and Old

Hero Hotline Vacation Bible School preparation is in full swing. Children ages 3 (fully potty trained) - 5th grade are invited to join in our adventure filled Bible school week July 22-25. Registration forms can be found on the VBS table in the narthex or online at www.splchastings.org.



We are currently looking for volunteers to help run a station, group leaders, and help with decoration/prepping. Please consider volunteering in this important and rewarding ministry.

Campfire Conversations Coming This Summer!

We are spending three evenings at 6:30 pm this summer reflecting on what it means to be Church. Come bring a chair and join our time of guided conversation and fellowship around our campfire ring. (If it is raining or over 90 degrees, we will plan to move inside.)



For those who are interested, there will be material available ahead of time, but there is no requirement. Also, each conversation is independent of the others, so if you can only make it to one, we'd love to see you!

June 19 – Church: Defining It
 July 21 – Church: Is it Dying?
 August 18 – Church: Nones and Dones

Outdoor Worship Service

St. Philip's is providing an opportunity for our congregation and our community to join in a Praise Worship service outdoors on June 23 at 9:30 am. We are privileged to have The Double Down Daredevils bluegrass band, with our own Mary Ellen Fox as a member, lead us in music. Bring your lawn chairs and join us in worship and fellowship. Complimentary ice cream treats will be served after the service. In case of rain, worship will take place in the sanctuary.

Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being taken for the 2024 Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship. This \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a female member of the congregation taking undergraduate courses at a four-year institution in 2024-25. This scholarship was funded in most part by the Fischer Family in honor of Mary Fischer.

If you are interested in applying you can find applications online at www.splchastings.org or pick up a copy on the welcome center at church. Please fill it out and return an electronic version via email to Lista Klocow in the office at lstak@splchastings.org or return to her via mail or drop off at the office in an envelope to maintain the confidentiality. All applications will be coded, and anonymity will be insured for the work of the Award Committee. The deadline is June 30.

Picture Directory Update

Thank you to the many people who submitted a recent picture for the directory. The directory can be accessed by going to the website: www.instantchurchdirectory.com

Use your email address given to the church as your username and then create your own password. Only St. Philip's members who have submitted an email address have access to the site. A confirmation will be sent to your email. For those with limited access to a computer, there are hard copies of the directory available at the Welcome Center. A free will offering can be put in the offering plate for the hard copies. If you have questions, contact the church office or Becky Raimann.

Philadazzle 2024

Summer may be here, but it's time to think about the third annual PHILADAZZLE. We have a date, Sunday, December 1, to usher in Advent. But now we need a steering committee to help plan the event. Last year we had almost 80 guests enjoy an evening out for the beginning of Christmas Season. What kind of food, entertainment, activities would you like to see this year? Won't you join us for our first meeting on Thursday, June 20 at 5:00? Sign up on the kiosk or just come to the meeting, we really could use your input!

Since You Asked...

Referring to the Giving and Expense Update in the weekly bulletin:

Why is the amount of the March YTD mortgage principal greater in 2024 than in 2023? \$23,275.68 vs. \$22,518.25

The process of paying off your mortgage is known as amortization. Fixed-rate mortgages have the same monthly mortgage payment of the life of the loan, though the amount you pay in principal and interest changes because interest payments are calculated based on the outstanding balance of the mortgage.

As the months and years go by, the principal portion of the payment steadily increases while the interest portion drops. That's because the interest is based on the outstanding balance of the mortgage at any given time, and the balance decreases as more principal is repaid.

Thanks for asking!

Meals on Wheels

More drivers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels. If you are available, even just once a month, please contact Mary Rock and she can get you signed up or answer any questions you may have.

Honoring Ellen Diischer

On April 28, the JoyPhil and YouthPhil Ringers honored Ellen Diischer with all their selections of the day. Ellen started first the chime choir in 2003 followed by the bell choir some years later.



Garage & Plant Sale June 8 from 8 to 3

Your homes and garages have things in them that others will buy. Find merchandise and start bringing it Monday, June 3. Also, please find a time to help if you possibly can. Department heads do the managing of prices. You may be asked to tidy things up or mark prices.



Hundreds of people will come because they know it's a good sale. We have a chance to extend ourselves to our visiting neighbors in the best possible way. If you have hard to move items we would come to get them for the sale. Contact Deborah Dreher at deborahdreh@aol.com for arrangements.



Drug Discussion at Adult Forum

Adult Education Presents Hastings' Drug Prevalence In late April, Adult Education featured a series of sessions on the prevalence of drug availability in Hastings. Hastings Police Department Deputy Brian Schowalter and Geoff Latsch, on loan to the Dakota County Task Force shared factual information on how over time, availability, prices and drug varieties have changed. The case in the photo contained the many kinds of drugs they encounter every day.



Contemporary Praise Music Enjoyed

St. Philip's did worship with the support of instrumental praise music done by guest musicians from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley on April 21. Kelsey and Emily Wormley provided the lead vocal support along with Dave Tank who joined the group on guitar.



Last Day of Sunday School Celebration

On May 5 our Sunday school students enjoyed a morning of fun playing games, bounce houses, and popcorn. We would like to thank everyone who taught Sunday school, subbed as needed, and the parents for bringing their children to class.



End of Year Confirmation Party

Wednesday, May 15 the confirmation classes celebrated the last day of class with an evening of outdoor fun with their teachers Kristian Ronning and Carlos Villavicencio.



Keeping Connected

Donna Bexell - For six years I attended Basswood Grove, the same one room country school my father and paternal grandparents attended. A country school is a unique learning environment. When I started we had grades 1-8. As each grade comes to the table to go over their lesson, every other student gets to listen in on a lesson they will eventually be assigned. We also did the daily maintenance: carrying water, sweeping the floors, cleaning the chalk boards and raising and taking down the flag correctly. We learned together, worked together and played together. We were a community. I see that same type of community here at St. Philip's and it warms my heart and feeds my spirit. Thank you.



Greetings from the Carda Family!



Natalie grew up on her family farm north of Austin, Minnesota and attended school in Booming Prairie. She was baptized and confirmed at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. After high school graduation she attended Mankato State University where she obtained a degree in Business Administration. Natalie works for US Bancorp Investments as an Operations Manager. She has been at the firm for 26 years.

Chad was raised in Chandler, Minnesota and attended the Chandler/Lake Wilson Schools. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lake Wilson. After graduation he attended South Dakota State University where he obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering. Chad works at Niron

Magnetics, Inc. a Start Up company in Minneapolis. He is an Equipment and Facilities Engineer.

Chad and Natalie met through a mutual friend in 1995. Following in his father and brother's footsteps, he proposed on the 4th of July 1997. We were married on June 13, 1998, at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. We lived in Minneapolis for a year before looking for a quieter place to settle down and raise a family.

Both growing up in rural areas, Hastings appealed to us because it had that small town feel but offered great educational opportunities for children. We tried several churches, but when we walked into the doors of St. Phillips, we knew we had found our church home.

We were blessed to raise our two children, Lydia and Matthew in this great community of faith. They say it takes a village to raise your family and St. Philip's has played such a key role in all our faith journeys. Lydia and Matthew attended Church school, VBS, participated in the Christmas programs, and the Children's Musical. They developed long lasting friendships and were mentored by inspirational adults along the way.

The Church Garage Sale is one of our favorite opportunities to serve and our whole family gets involved. When the kids were little, their job was to cut the masking tape so Mom and Dad could price the merchandise. Now that they are adults, they still come back to help with this endeavor.

Lydia joined the Army National Guard while still in high school. After graduation she went to Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and attended her AIT training at Fort Huachuca. She is now a Sergeant in MN Army National Guard and will finish her contract this fall. Lydia also attended college at Minnesota State University, and she graduated on May 3, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. She will begin her career at Ernst & Young this fall.

Matthew is attending the University of Minnesota Duluth pursuing a degree in Psychology. He will be a junior this fall. He was a residential advisor for campus housing last year and will be do so again this coming fall. Matthew also plays Rugby for the UMD Rugby Club. Matthew and his team keep us entertained as we travel Minnesota and Wisconsin to watch their games.

We feel blessed to be a part of this church family. We have been a witness to the deep faith and nurturing in an inclusive environment that is such an integral part of St. Philip's Lutheran Church.

Worship Leaders

June 2024

	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
	9:30	9:30	9:30	Outdoor Worship	9:30
Worship Coordinator	Katy Lindberg Sadie Reiniers	Connie Ball Mary Rock	Jay & Becky Raimann	Michelle Carlson Judy Hansen	Bruce & Brenda Arndtson
Greeter	Graduates	Wayne & Beth Fahlstrom, Jon Faust	Gary & Marge Evenson	Al & Gail Carstensen	Rich & LuAnn Roiger
Usher	Tim & Emily Preston	Jay Raimann Ron Toppin	Lance & Lois Twedt	Dan Thomas Steve Wolverton	Pam & Kent Hoffman
Lector	Graduates	Cindy Toppin	Jennie Thomas	Darla Kimmes	Danna Schultz
Communion Bread	Lori Best	Becky Raimann	Barb Jorenby		Lisa Bergert
Communion Wine	Michelle Carlson Deborah Dreher	Beth Fahlstrom Glenda Schnirring	Patty Todnem Marita Legreid		Doug & Danna Schultz
Offering Counters	Ron Toppin Bob Cruse	Judy Hansen Denny Kohn	Pam Hoffman Mary Rock	Deb Frandrup Deborah Dreher	Ron Toppin Bob Cruse
Prayer Team	Jennie Thomas	Barb Jorenby	Geri Holmseth	Judy Werner	Vonnie Olson
Music Leader/Cantor	Chiroal Ensemble	Darlene Olson	Unity		Jan Kochendorfer
Organist/Musicians	Sam Willis Choral Ensemble	Noreen Swanson Bells	Noreen Swanson Unity	Double Down Daredevils	Noreen Swanson

**Graduate Recognition
Sunday**

Father's Day

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)

Call Lori Best with any questions or changes in your availability (763-807-3667)

2024 June		St. Philip's Lutheran Church				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	May 31	1 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
2 9:30 AM Worship / Graduation Recognition 10:45 AM Garage Sale Set-Up	3 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-Up 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM CMT 6:00 PM Adult Spiritual Growth 7:00 PM Joy/Phil Rodgers	4 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-Up 3:30 PM Unity 5:00 PM Fellowship Ministry 6:00 PM Worship & Music Ministry	5 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-Up 3:00 PM Chancel @ Regina	6 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-Up 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days	7 9:00 AM Garage Sale Set-Up	8 8:00 AM Garage and Plant Sale 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
9 9:30 AM Worship	10 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM Faith Formation 6:30 PM Finance Ministry	11 3:30 PM Unity 5:30 PM Prayer Team	12	13 9:30 AM WELCA Summer Outing 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee	14	15 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
16 9:30 AM Worship	17 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Council	18 3:30 PM Unity	19 6:30 PM Campfire Conversations	20 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days 5:00 PM Philadazzle Planning	21	22 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
23 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship	24 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	25 3:30 PM Unity	26 10:00 AM Chapel @ Oak Ridge	27	28	29 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
30 9:30 AM Worship	Jul 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)

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