

# 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

July 2024

## July Events

**Sunday, July 14**

**New Members Received**

**Saturday, July 20**

**9:30 am VBS Volunteer  
Orientation**

**Sunday, July 21**

**10:45 am VBS Volunteer  
Orientation**

**July 22 – 25**

**9 am-12 pm Vacation Bible School**

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' Amos 7:14-15

From the first lesson for July 14



While there may not have been too many "good things" that came out of the horrible COVID-19 pandemic, I am reminded that there were at least a few. Our ability to livestream our worship services has enabled many of our members who live in nursing homes or are otherwise homebound to worship with us. Others have told me how much they

appreciate the option to worship online with us if they (or one of their children) is not feeling well, or if they are snow birding down south during the winter.

On a similar note, Zoom has enabled our ministry teams to meet even when not everyone is able to come to the church and even for members across the nation to participate in our annual meetings! That never happened before.

But I think one of the best things that happened was when the Holy Spirit moved one of our members, who was frustrated when we were all living in relative isolation, to have a section of our newsletter to share about our members and their lives. At the time we called it "Keeping Connected While We Are Apart", but now we just call it "Keeping Connected." I am so grateful for Gerri Lundby for sustaining this ministry and finding sisters and brothers who are willing to share part of their stories and how God is working through St. Philip's

Over the year I have read how thankful many of you were for the love and support that you have felt here and I am overcome by a sense of thankfulness that I too have been so blessed. I thank God for each of you and for the love you continue to share with my family and me. God's love is not just an occasional happening here. It is for everyone!

God is using each of you to make a difference in the lives of others! Think about that! Each time someone visits and worships with us, God is providing an opportunity to share the love of Christ. It is an awesome responsibility and God has entrusted it to us. Your story is unique to you. Your faith is worth sharing, and you are wrong if you think that sharing your faith requires some special abilities or credentials.

In our first lesson for worship on July 16, after the priest Amaziah beseeches Amos to go and prophesy somewhere else since Amos's prophecies are disturbing to the king, Amos answers that he is not really a prophet but a farmer! But the Lord took him from following his flock, and sent him to share God's word with God's people.

Over and over again, Scripture shows us how God continues to call and equip ordinary folks to speak God's word to God's people. The one common feature that they all shared was that NONE of them felt that they were the best person for the job. Isaiah bemoaned that he was a person of unclean lips who lived among a people of unclean lips. Jeremiah was too young. Abraham was too old. Moses didn't think he could speak with authority. The disciples of Jesus were a rag-tag bunch if ever there was one. Yet in every case, God used them to fulfill God's purpose.

Likewise, God has worked in and through each of you in different way. You have a story to tell and we are anxious to hear it. Each of us is living evidence of the old axiom, "God doesn't call those who are equipped, God equips those who are called." I am grateful that God has called each of you.

*Your Servant in Christ,*

*Pastor Geier*

## Chi-Rho Banner

Have you noticed the addition of a new green banner? It features the Chi-Rho symbol which is made up of the first two Greek letters of the word Christ. The Greek letter, Chi looks like an X and the Greek letter Rho looks like a P. This is a symbol of Christ and Christianity. It represents the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one chosen by God to carry out his works.



This was purchased with memorial funds

## Thank You...

I wish to shout out and give a big THANK YOU to all of the youth and adult bell ringers who participated in the bell ministry at St. Philip's this past year. Your several hours of hard work and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. You are a great bunch of people. Enjoy your summer. Hope to see you all in the fall.

*LuAnn Roiger, Bell Director*

### – Among Our Own –

#### *Sympathies to...*

**Family and friends** as they mourn the death of Dolly Holzheu

**Eunice Jilk and family** as they mourn the death of her sister-in-law Mona Siebenaler

**David and Geneva Weisser** as they mourn the death of Geneva's brother, Sherwood Haakenson

#### *Congratulations to...*

**Jenna Dale** on graduating May 19 with her Master's Degree in Psychology specializing in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Jenna graduated from Hastings High School in 2019, Winona State in 2022 and UW-Milwaukee in 2024.

**Matthew and Erin Williams** on the birth of Millie Jo Williams born May 25 (grandparents Lee and Heide Williams)

### Prayer Update

For several years, our friend Harvey has been dealing with a recurring tumor slightly above and behind his eyes. He had numerous surgeries to remove it, most of them every three months (in one instance they had to break his jaw to get access). Every time it returns there is an increased risk of cancer, but not so far. Most recently he had a severe tear duct infection, which antibiotics seem to be curing. His latest three appointments have shown no recurrence of the tumor, although his doctor says it will come back. But for right now he is only required to go to checkups every six months, which is a very hopeful sign. He wants to express his deep gratitude for the prayers and support he has been receiving from all of us as he deals with these health issues.

*David and Geneva Weisser*

## Sunday Scripture Readings

July 7	Ezekiel 2:1-5 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13
July 14	Amos 7:7-15 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29
July 21	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 28	2 Kings 4:42-44 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

## SOUND BYTES

Greetings from your audio-visual booth! We have a need and an opportunity to expand our team and open ministry opportunities for additional volunteers. If you think you might enjoy learning a new skill while experiencing the challenge and satisfaction of an increased role in worship, we invite you to consider joining our team. No audio-visual experience is necessary -- we will train you! If you are interested or have questions, please email John Diischer at johnd@splchastings.org or call the church office.



## Giving and Expense

	2024	2023
May 2024 YTD General and Misc Giving		
	\$221,265	\$205,534
May 2024 YTD Capital Fund		
	\$71,571	\$67,441
May 2024 YTD Expenses		
	\$266,327	\$231,231
Net		
	\$26,508	\$41,744
May 2024 YTD Mortgage Principal Required		
	\$38,880	\$37,462

## Meet the CYF Interim What is InterServe

Congregations who are going through changes in their Children, Youth, and Family Ministry are facing some important decisions. InterServe Ministries guides congregations in a way that promotes a healthy and intentional time to focus on the goals of the ministry and future growth opportunities. Young people, parents and volunteers come together to dream, create and implement a viable, Christ-centered ministry that is built from the congregation up.

Nick Clark has been an InterServe Ministries Associate since 2019, and his interim period at St. Philip's began in late May. Nick's work here will continue through the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Nick's role at St. Philip's is two-fold. First, he will be responsible for the maintenance of the youth and family programming during this interim period, such as coordinating Sunday School and Confirmation. Second, he is here to help St. Philip's discern the core goals and values of youth ministry here and help create a long-term staffing plan.

To accomplish this discernment goal, Pastor Geier has put together a Discovery Team for Nick to work alongside—this team includes Vanessa Haltvick, Becky Kaphing, Kathy Luedke, Kristian Ronning, Dan Strehlow, Tiffany Steward, Peyton Thomas, and Emily Wormley. The Discovery Team and Nick had their first meeting in May and will have several more meetings throughout the year. Eventually, the Discovery Team will distribute surveys and host listening sessions, which will invite the whole congregation into the discernment process. By early 2025, the Discovery Team plans to submit a Final Report to council, which will include a staffing proposal for their approval.

Nick lives in Woodbury with his wife Liz, their sons Harvey (7) and Everett (5), and two dogs.

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## St. Philip's Preschool

There are still openings for the 2024-25 school year. Spread the word to your friends and families. Classes for 3-5 year olds are held September through May. Registration forms are online at [splchastings.org](http://splchastings.org) or on the welcome center. For more information, contact Becky or Lorelei at [preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org) or call 651-437-6541.

## Vacation Bible School Is Coming Quickly

Vacation Bible School is coming quickly! Hero Hotline VBS will be the week of July 22-25. I'd like to thank all the volunteers that have already been working hard behind the scenes on prep work the last few months! The following are a few needs we have as we close in on the last few weeks before VBS.



- ✦ We are collecting empty boxes (cereal, cracker, noodle, etc.) for one of our games. Please bring them to the old sanctuary and place them in the small kiddie pools.
- ✦ Any of that brown packaging paper that comes from Amazon packages. Also can be placed in the old sanctuary.
- ✦ Our supply donation board will be up June 30-July 11. Supplies can be placed in the wagon outside the main office by July 14 unless another date is noted on the slip.
- ✦ We could use a few more volunteers to rotate with groups, prep snacks, a few other things. This really is a fun week of fellowship and community outreach.
- ✦ Lastly, please pray for all our children and volunteers the week of July 22-25 that we have a fun, safe, and meaningful week learning about Bible heroes.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Becky at [beckyk@splchastings.org](mailto:beckyk@splchastings.org).

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## SAVE THE DATE!



### Family (of Faith) SERVING Event!

Saturday, August 24 8:45 am – 12:00 pm  
More details coming in August Newsletter

## Calling All of Our Hero VBS Volunteers

We will be having a Vacation Bible School volunteer/ decorating and prep work meeting on Saturday, July 20 from 9:30-11:30 am or Sunday, July 21 from 10:45 am-12:45 pm. If you are volunteering for the week please try to attend one of these times at least for the first 45 minutes to get the information for the week. If you are not volunteering for the week, but are able to help with set up/decorating, that would be great. We will especially need some muscles on Sunday to get the sanctuary and craft areas set up.



Reach out to Becky at [beckyk@splchastings.org](mailto:beckyk@splchastings.org) with any questions.



## Lutheran World Relief School Supply Drive

Hard to believe that it's already time to start planning for the annual Lutheran World Relief School Supply Drive! We are beginning to see supplies already out in stores. Pencil sharpeners and rulers (centimeters included) tend to be the first to run out, so it's recommended that those get first attention. Stay tuned as time draws nearer. Collection will begin July 28.

## Blood Drive

We will be opening our doors again to the Red Cross for a life-saving afternoon blood drive on August 22 from noon - 6 pm.

If you would like to help greet our guest or clean up, please contact Katy Lindberg 651-437-5031. If you are eligible, please sign up to donate at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

Did you know only 37% of the population can donate blood and only 7% do? Be a life saver!

## Campfire Conversations

July 21  
6:30-7:30!

Although St. Philip's Lutheran Church remains vital and active, we are no longer growing at the same rate our community is. There is no getting around statistical drops in membership and participation in the protestant mainline denominations. "Death of the Church?" discusses decline. It's a solid conversation to have about changes in our faith community.



This conversation will offer some statistics, and invite you to look for signs of death, signs of life, and to dream about legacy, the future, and measuring discipleship. For those interested in downloading some related material prior to our conversations, the link below will be sent out with our weekly email prior to the 21<sup>st</sup>. If you would prefer a hard copy, please let the office know.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:932538d8-a2cf-41a1-a1dd-eadce56d53bf>



## Prayer Shawl Ministry to Expand

Prayer shawls have been part of our caring ministry for many years. They are knit or crocheted by volunteers. Pastor Geier often delivers a shawl when visiting someone during a serious health concern. Recipients are wrapped in the love and concern of Jesus. The Prayer Team invites any who crochet or knit to create and donate a shawl to increase our

inventory. We hope to have more available in the future for you to share, too. Patterns are available on the Internet. See LuAnn Roiger or Barb Jorenby for more information.



## Graduate Sunday 2024

St. Philip's honored twelve Hastings High School graduates on June 2. They were Brody Anderson, Madelyn Chandler, Logan David, Devin Hampl, Jared Hanson, Lauren Jenkins, Ellie King, Zachary Lindberg, Ty Mares, Parker McGinnis, Julia Ronning, and Roland Zietlow. The congregation extends its warmest congratulations and God's forever protection in their lives ahead.



*Roland Zietlow was the acolyte for the day, lighting and extinguishing the altar candles*



*Roland Zietlow, Lauren Jenkins, Julia Ronning, Devin Hampl and Zachary Lindberg stood before the congregation as a litany of prayers was read responsively citing the congregation's support for their lives going forward*



*Julia Ronning played a stirring Beethoven composition during Communion Distribution*



*Julia Ronning read the Scripture lesson for the day*



*Devin Hampl is greeted by Sue Cruse during the receiving line*



*Donuts were served up by Lydia Cummings and Nick Clark, SPLC's new Children, Youth and Family Interim*

## Spring Grounds Clean-Up

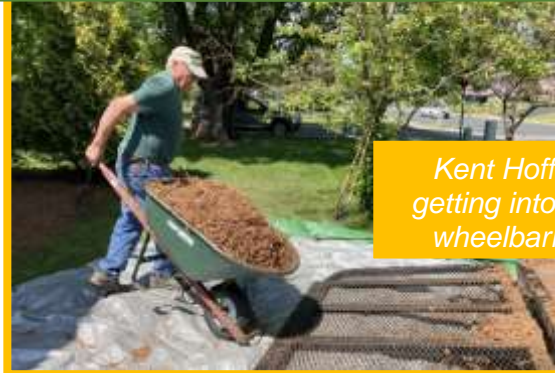
Grooming St. Philip's grounds is an on-going task which needs frequent attention. An "all-call day" was held May 18. Being able to help were Bruce Akins, Bruce Arndtson, Trish Bremer, Dave Fry, Pam and Kent Hoffman, Katy Lindberg, Bill Pavlish, Glenda Schnirring, Dave and Robyn Tank, Al and Patty Todnem and Steve Wolverton.



*Bruce Arndtson's trailer had nine buckets of mulch on it ready for spreading. Dave Tank and Bruce are on the trailer.*



*Pam Hoffman, Patty Todnem and Trish Bremer pull weeds from the 15th Street side*



*Kent Hoffman is getting into it with a wheelbarrow full*



*Bruce Akins spent lots of hours pulling weeds from the islands and the west lilies*

## St. Paul Saints Baseball Game

After threatening weather all week, thirty hearty souls ventured out to a St. Paul Saints baseball game on June 20. Though there were rain showers before and at the end of game, the Saints continued on their nine-game winning streak. Antics by wacky characters and contests



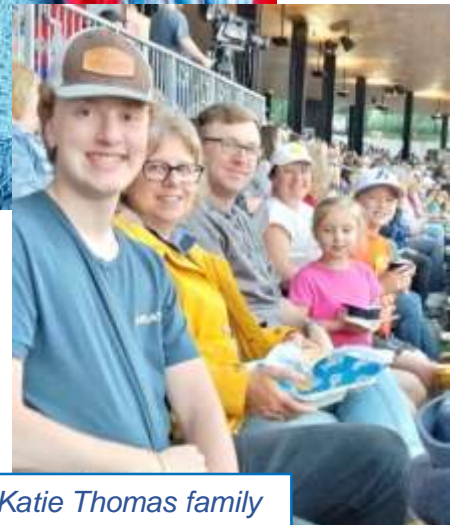
*Jamie and Nina Meyer family*



*Susan Cruse, Ron and Cindy Toppin*



*Dan and Jennie Thomas*



*Warren and Katie Thomas family*

## 2024 Garage & Plant Sale Highest Ever!

This year's Garage & Plant sale was the 19th sale, resulting in \$21,737, a stronger financial result than ever before. It was \$1,118 more than in 2023. Plant sales resulted in \$3,366, again exceeding last year, and included in the \$21,737 total.

Led by the strong management and motivation of Sale Coordinator Deborah Dreher, an estimated sixty volunteers gave roughly 1,550 of volunteer hours on sight. Many more hours happened behind the scenes with members delivering their donations, leadership people planning, writing ads, placing signage in strategic locations, and preparing noon lunches and food treats for the forty-five volunteers working Monday through Thursday.

The success of the sale was also made possible with the help of Scout Troop 23. The Scouts and their parents were a distinct help on set-up day, and sale day which included the overwhelming task of take-down. Another partner in the sale's success was through Thrivent Financials' Action Team Program which provided \$250 in funds, which helped address advertising expenses.

Once again, far beyond the financial yield of the sale are the human exchanges between fellow members during the week preparing for the sale and later, on sale day with the shopper-guests who came to the sale from Hastings and the surrounding seven-county area. Grace is felt, emotional support is extended, practical and how-to information is shared, (as in plants), and a unique friendship develops through repeat shoppers who make sure they visit St. Philip's sale every year. A sincere "Thank You" is extended to everyone who touched the sale as a donor, a worker, a department head, a lifter of very heavy items, and a prayer partner during the week. It was a great day for all who visited 15th and Pleasant that day.

### Numbers of Note:

- ♦ The first shopper car was in the lot at 6 am. It was from Apple Valley.
- ♦ 1 couple visiting the area from California, came to the sale.
- ♦ 22 St. Philip's members serving as department heads or co-heads were: Sally Anderson, Chad and Natalie Carda, Mary Charlson, Susan Cruse, Darla Kimmes, Jan Kochendorfer, Jeff Lucas, Vicki Pavlish, Marjorie Peterson, Mary Rock, Glenda Schnirring, Pat Schultz, Kathy Stockman, Carol Tobin, Al and Patty Todnem, Lois Twedt, Bernita Weber, David and Geneva Weisser and Arlene Wellemeyer.
- ♦ Daily auxiliary support was provided by Bruce Arndtson, Deb and Rick Carlson, Bob Cruse, Bill Pavlish, Ron Toppin, Bob Wellemeyer, and Steve Wolverton.
- ♦ Parking attendants on sale day were Wes Ask, Kent Hoffman, Terry Kochendorfer and Dave Pemble.
- ♦ Nearly 100 stood in the rain for at least an hour until start time
- ♦ 18,000 items handled on average six times resulted in 108,00 "volunteer touches."
- ♦ 80 volunteers worked on sale day.
- ♦ 90 St. Philip's households brought goods to sell.
- ♦ 14 people provided noon lunches or kitchen treats for 43 workers for 4 days.
- ♦ The Salvation Army has come to pick up remaining goods for all 19 sales.
- ♦ Scout Troop 23, had 12 Scouts, their leaders and parents help with sale set-up, runners during the sale for our guests, and take-down at the end of Saturday.



*Raul Jackson sorted DVDs and worked in books*



*Kathy Stockman being sure all the pieces are in this youth puzzle*



*Wes Ask worked early in the week bringing merchandise to the departments*



*Cheryl Albold dealing with an abundance of craft donations*



*Carol Tobin, measuring and marking each piece of fabric for future use*



*Sharon Moody shining up wine glasses*



*Lois Twedt is a champion working in children's with Arlene Wellemeyer*



*Julie Seiben and Margaret Cox had fun working in children's*



*Sue Cruse and Jan Misegades handling a lot of adult apparel through the week*



*Ron Toppin and Bob Cruse worked every day with disposing of goods not suitable for sale and boxes for each department*



*Deb Frandrup found a cute t-shirt*



*Linda Ask doing marketable placement of dinnerware and accessories*



*Marjorie Peterson, Michelle Carlson and Bernita Weber arrange all jewelry, scarves, hats and scarves*



*Deb Carlson and Pam Hoffman shown with the Vienna dogs featured by Pam and her Chicago cousin on lunch day*



*Becky Raimann and Judy Werner sort books by age for children*



*Jan Kochendorfer made sure all lamps were clean and worked*



*Al and Patty Todnem wearing Thrivent Action Team shirts supplied for the event*



*Beautiful hostas wait to be purchased in the plant sale which yielded \$3,663*



*People waiting for 8 am in the rain. Getting in early was that important to them.*



*Sale leader, Deborah Dreher gives the fifty volunteers, thanks and encouragement just before the ribbon is cut*



*Sue Retka and Margaret Goderstad served as first shift greeters and handed out bags*

**WELCA Cruise** - On June 13, 36 women went on a WELCA sponsored lunch and cruise on the St. Croix, boarding from the Hudson WI harbor. It was a totally enjoyable time getting acquainted with each other in a social setting.



*Lori Best and Camille Johnson-Oster on deck with Jane Mattson, a friend of Pam Hoffman*



*Patty Todnem is seen with her 3 sisters and one sister-in-law, flanked by Gail Carstensen and Susan Cruse*



*Barb Jorenby, Diane Nelson, Deborah Dreher and Glenda Schnirring catching some sun after lunch*



*Gerri Holmseth is seen with a number of gals waiting to board on the Hudson pier*

## Keeping Connected

First of all, we want to express our sincere gratitude to ALL the members and staff at St. Philip's! We have felt SO welcome and are excited to have joined the St. Philip's family of believers. It has been our pleasure to serve the Lord with you by attending services, helping with projects, serving on committees and promoting and supporting the RaiseRight Fundraiser for the preschool. It is truly an honor to be elected as your treasurer. AND we all survived our first garage sale! We look forward to many more opportunities to share our God-given talents!



One of our recent endeavors has been to assist with the outing to the St. Paul Saints game. By the time you read this the event will have already happened. If you have followed any of our Facebook pages, you will often see our smiling faces at CHS Field. Yes, we love baseball and are season ticket holders for the Saints for the last 10 years. In the past we had attended many games at Midway Stadium and when CHS Filed was built we opted to become season ticket holders. Over the last few years, we have moved seats a few times to what we think are "the best seats in the house"! Two of our daughters share half season tickets on the two seats next to us so it has become a family affair. Our grandkids enjoy the games as well. Their favorite ushertainers are Nerd and Nerdette and Mudonna, the Saints mascot always brings huge smiles to their faces. When it was decided to plan an outing to a Saints game, we offered our expertise to the planning group. We were able to work with our ticket rep to secure great seats. The Saints provide a family friendly atmosphere with some comic high jinx thrown in too! We also get a chance to see some Twins players doing their rehab with the Saints. If anyone has questions about the stadium or the games, or just wants to talk baseball, just reach out to one of us!



Again, THANKS for being a huge blessing to us! We thank God every day for our St. Philip's family.

*Dave, Dolores and Dara Pemble*

**ST. PHILIP'S STAFF**

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*Director*

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**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)

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