

The Philippiian

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

November 2024

November Events

Lefse Making
Saturday, November 2

Ministry Fair
Sunday, November 3 after Worship

Leaf Raking
Saturday, November 9 at 9 am

Family Fellowship Movie Day
Sunday, November 17 at 1 pm

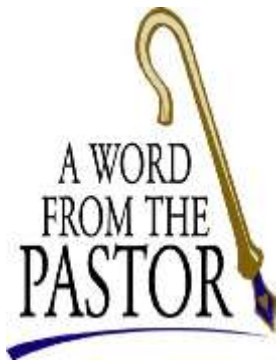
Bake, Soup and Quilt Sale
Saturday, November 23, 9 - 12:30

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship
Sunday, November 24 at 3 pm

I am
Thankful
for...

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

John 18:33-37



On November 24 we will gather for worship on the last Sunday of the church year, looking back across another year nearly completed and looking ahead to a new year together. The passing of time itself confronts us with questions such as to where are we going and why are we here?

The annual cycle known as the liturgical calendar dramatically portrays the life of Christ and the life of the church, proclaiming his birth, death, and resurrection and challenging our response. Yet its concept is not that of a circle, which has neither a beginning nor an end. Rather the church calendar portrays a spiral, which, like the propeller of an airplane moves forward through time with each rotation; or, like the threads on a screw, with each rotation pulls us along toward our final goal. Each year we are that much closer to realizing the goal. The goal is the kingship of Christ.

This Christ the King Sunday proclaims the accomplished fact that Christ is King, the king of all kings, and Lord of all lords. Christ the King Sunday challenges each one of us to pray that Christ may be king for us.

That was precisely the issue confronting Pilate in the gospel for Christ the King Sunday. He was caught up in the same issue that catches us up: What is truth? Who is my king? What difference does it make?

As you and I face Christ the King, we see in Jesus the truth about ourselves and about the eternal heart of God; the truth that triumphed when our Lord accepted a cruel cross and burst a terrible tomb and poured his Holy Spirit upon his people. We find ourselves being transformed into kingdom people, priests to our God, a community that both knows and shares the truth.

"For this I have come into the world." For this we the church have been sent into the world. The King stands in our midst so that we ourselves are the kingdom of God, becoming the kingdom even as the king himself continually comes in, with, and through us to bear witness to the truth. The truth that God so loved the world . . . The truth that whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, the truth that Jesus came not for the righteous but sinners, the truth that Jesus will come again and draw all people to himself. He is coming! That's the truth!

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*

Sunday Scripture Readings

November 3	Isaiah 25:6-9 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44
November 10	1 Kings 17:8-16 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44
November 17	Daniel 12:1-3 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8
November 24	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

– Among Our Own –

Congratulations to...

Al Sieben and Betty Lou Baysinger as they celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on November 5.

Sympathies to...

Lista Klocow and her family as they mourn the death of her mother, Belva Domogalla
Family of Beverly Buda (Eunice Jilk's daughter-in-law's mother) as they mourn her death
Geri Holmseth and family as they mourn the death of her brother, Stan Matheson

Preschool Chatter

October was a busy and beautiful month. Summer/fall weather was a continued blessing which enabled us to get outside and enjoy the season a little longer! We learned about apples, community helpers, fall, and enjoyed some Halloween fun. Our preschool days were filled with observing the changing season outside, games, learning about people in our community, and of course fun art projects. We also enjoyed a special visit from the Hastings Fire Department. We learned about fire safety and even got to explore the fire truck.

Our preschoolers are looking forward to our upcoming Halloween parties that will be on October 31 and November 1. We have fun games planned for them as well as special snacks and crafts.

In the month of November, we will be excited to teach about what it means to be thankful and counting our blessings. As a staff we know that each and every one of the families we serve is truly a blessing and we are grateful for them all. We are also very grateful for the support of the St. Philip's congregation in many ways including prayers of support and the continued support to our ongoing Raise Right fundraiser. Thanks to your support we were able to cover the costs of woodchips, classroom supplies, and are working towards covering the cost of our holiday parties, gifts, and supplies. We also hope to once again use Raise Right funds to cover our spring field trip.

We hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving season!

Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors

Giving and Expense

2024	2023
September 2024 YTD General & Misc Giving	
* \$628,563.66	\$373,344.58
September 2024 YTD Capital Fund	
* \$119,396.50	\$113,154.00
September 2024 YTD Expenses	
* \$446,105.15	\$430,066.55
Net	
\$301,855.01	\$56,432.03
August 2024 YTD Mortgage Principal Required	
\$71,709.93	\$67,447.18

* Includes "Complete the Dream" Giving and Expense

Thank You!

To the community of faith that is St. Philip's Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much seems inadequate for the love, affirmation, support you have given me over the last nine years. I can honestly say that I cannot recall a day when I wasn't grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor and walk with you on your faith journeys. This congregation is a very real blessing in my life and I thank God for you. As you shared your appreciation of me on the October 13 I was and am humbled. I look forward to what God has in store for us as we continue to live, grow, and share Christ's love together.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier

St. Philip's Friends,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, flowers, kind words, support and hugs following the death of my mom, Belva. It meant a lot to me and I was humbled by that outpouring. God bless you all.

Lista Klocow

Christmas Gift Idea

We would like to thank everyone that has been supporting Raise Right throughout the year. We would like to remind anyone who may not be using it monthly that they do make great Christmas gifts. If you're planning on buying gift cards this season, please consider buying from us.

Thank you,
St. Philip's Preschool

November 3 After Worship!



November Adult Forum



Ministry Fair

November 3 - No Formal Adult Forum, but please attend the Ministry Fair and visit with as many tables as possible

Community Emergency Planning

Two weeks on Planning for Emergencies:

Natural - weather related [snow, hail, wind], tornado, flooding, closures, etc.

Man-made - accidents/crashes, road closures, spills, fire, explosions, active shooter, etc.

Contacting and working with the community

Communication / partnering with other agencies and communities

What can the faith community (St. Philip's) do to help?

November 10 - Dr. Tammy Champs, Superintendent, ISD 200

November 17 - Chief David Wilske, City of Hastings Police Department

Happy Holidays, the War on Christmas

November 24 - Pastor Geier will lead discussion on the wavering meaning of the holidays; Thanksgiving and Christmas. For centuries, religious and secular groups have been changing the meaning of Christmas. What is politically correct? What are the cultural conflicts during the holiday season? Join us to circle back to the true meaning on Christmas.

Daylight Saving Time Ends



Set your clocks back on Saturday, November 2 before bed and enjoy an extra hour of sleep Sunday morning!

Ellen's Memorial Quilt Drawing

Ellen Diischer, our former Director of Worship and Music, had collected several of the annual children's musical t-shirts over more than twenty years. Her desire was to make a quilt with them. Becky Raimann has fulfilled that goal. It has a cozy fleece backing with music designs.

There will be a drawing on November 17 after worship for the quilt. Tickets for the drawing can be purchased November 3 and 10 after worship, and November 17 before worship at a cost of \$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10. No need to be present to win. Proceeds will go to SPLC Children's Education programming. Contact Becky if you have questions (651-437-1377).



Stewardship Emphasis Time to Focus on Abundance

The theme for the 2024 Stewardship season is "Abiding in God's Abundance". Temple talks have been happening, and plans for St. Philip's pledge Sunday is underway. Save Sunday, December 8 for a festive complimentary breakfast following worship. Households will receive an invitation post card to indicate their coming. From John's Gospel we read, "Jesus says, I came that they may have life and have it abundantly".



WANTED! Disciples needed to restock the supply of prayer shawls. Opportunity to work from home! Rewarded by knowing you are sharing God's love with someone who needs it. Supplies and instructions can be made available. Contact LuAnn Roiger or Barb Jorenby.



Sunday Morning November 24 Adult Spiritual Growth Crafted Conversations



It's that time of year again when we go overboard across the board. Holiday mania descends in full force right around Thanksgiving, and the decorations, lights, consumer spending, holiday cheer, and battle cries about a "war on Christmas" all go up. Let's talk about some (or all) of these!

This is a very worthwhile, seasonally appropriate, eye-opening and thought-provoking conversation about what it means to celebrate Christmas in our context. And more broadly, how we practice our faith in ways that invite people to the manger, without igniting culture wars.

We are divided on a number of things regarding Christmas. How early is it acceptable to play Christmas music or put up the tree? Do you need a tree to celebrate Christmas? Has the obsession with gift giving overtaken the simplicity of marveling at the Word become flesh? Which is the best Christmas movie, Die Hard or Lethal Weapon?

What we are undivided on is that Christ is at the heart of Christmas, and that a cultural, secular "War on Christmas" is an overblown non-threat – at least how it is popularly characterized in the media.

Each time this year, portions of the dominant Christian culture feel a bit less dominant and draw battle lines around the phrasing of season's greetings, nativity scenes, secularism, and religious pluralism. It's good to reflect on, and respond to, claims that a war is being waged on the celebration of Jesus' birth. Come and explore how we talk about – and live out – Christ's birthday party!



November Leaf Raking

Confirmation students will be participating in a Leaf Raking service event on Saturday, November 9 starting at 9:00 am. If you would like your leaves raked or parents or other adults who would be interested in helping out, please contact Nick at nickc@splchastings.org.



We Need Your Ideas for Giving!

Most of you know that St. Philip's Lutheran Church is a generous community of faith that supports God's work within and beyond our congregation. We



We invest at least 10% of our regular offerings in ministries outside St. Philip's including the ELCA, Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, and Lutheran Social Services. In addition, at our annual meeting we vote on ministries beyond ourselves to receive 10% of our garage sale proceeds and miscellaneous offerings. One of these ministries is to serve Dakota County residents and the other is to cast a wider circle of ministry.

Previous local ministries on the ballot included Lewis House, Hastings United Way "Food4Kids", and Hastings Family Service. Ministries beyond Hastings have included the Matrix Emergency Shelter in Dakota County, ELCA Domestic & International Response, My Very Own Bed, and mission congregations of the St. Paul Area Synod.

If YOU have an idea you would like to be included on the ballot at our next annual meeting, please let the pastor, church office or a council member know. The council will then decide on three local ministries and three broader ministries to be on the ballot at our December council meeting. The council has decided that three options in each category is a good number of possibilities.

If you are happy with the way things have gone in recent years, the council will pick from previous ministries we have supported or new ministries that are serving those in need.

St. Philip's Bake, Soup and Quilt Sale

When: Saturday, November 23
9:00 am – 12:30 pm

What: All kinds of baked goods, treats and canned items, plus fresh produce

Homemade Soups

(Quarts, Takeout only)

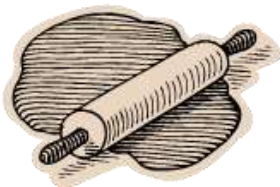
- Bean and Ham Gluten Free
- Chicken Taco
- Hamburger Vegetable
- Turkey and Wild Rice Gluten Free



Quilts that have been made by the St. Philip's Do Day Members



Final Lefse Making Opportunity is Saturday, November 2 from 9 am until done



Sign-up sheets for lefse making and donations of ingredients are on the kiosk in the narthex

Sign-up sheets for workers for making soup and for the sale are available on the easel in the narthex.

Lots of opportunities to participate.

Baked goods, candy, home canning, and fresh produce can be brought to church on Friday, November 22, 9 am-7 pm or by 8:30 am on Saturday, November 23. Please wrap items attractively in clear plastic wrap and label the items. Include in the label important information such as gluten-free, contains nuts or any other food allergies.

Proceeds go toward Bible story books for 3 year olds, Bibles for 3rd graders, a scholarship for a high school girl in Tanzania, Lutheran Social Service programs, and youth projects to name a few.

Congregation Expresses Appreciation to Pastor Geier

On Sunday, October 13, known as "Pastor Appreciation Day", council member Dave Fry spoke on behalf on the congregation, followed by a strong applause, as words of appreciation were expressed to Pastor Geier for his service as St. Philip's pastor.



In response to the congregation's expression of appreciation, Pastor Geier commented that among 16,000 Lutheran pastors, he is honored to be the pastor of St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Pastor Geier received a card of appreciation and a gift card to enjoy from the congregation.



Acolytes, Create Reverence and Preparation for Worship

Acolytes Payton and Parker Perseke, exit the sanctuary with the "light of Christ", being brought from the worship service, symbolic to those in worship as having been blessed and empowered by His spirit to serve Him in the world.



The Eternal Impact of a Simple Gift

As the world continues to struggle with wars and worldwide natural disasters, packing a shoebox is a simple and quick way to reach boys and girls around the world with the Gospel. This is your chance to be a missionary from the comfort of your own hometown! Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



Will you partner with us and Samaritan's Purse to share that glorious hope with boys and girls around the world -- many of whom have never heard the name of Jesus?

Look for the red and green shoeboxes, Girl/Boy labels and packing tips on the table in the narthex late October. You can also use your own shoebox from home, if you prefer. The last day to drop off a filled shoebox this year will be November 24.

If packing a traditional shoebox isn't an option for you this year, consider building a shoebox online! Directions on how to do this can be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Questions? Please visit us at the table in the narthex, contact Emily Preston or Robyn Tank, or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Thank you for partnering with us this shoebox season to bring Good News and Great Joy to suffering children around the world!

Military Prayer List

St. Philip's regularly prays for our member's military. There is the military bulletin board next to the old sanctuary with the list of those members. If you have a family member that you would like on the Military Prayer List or there is an update on the status of your family member, please contact Camille Nelson or the church office.



Sunday, November 24 at 3:00 pm

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, St. Philip's Lutheran Church will be hosting our community ecumenical worship service at 3:00 pm. Area pastors will be participating to provide leadership. We will be receiving an offering that will be given to Hastings Family Service to support this ministry that serves our neighbors in need.

We are continuing to reignite a tradition of worshipping together to show the world that our commitment to Jesus goes well beyond whatever flavor we have listed on our church road sign. We gather to give thanks to the God who has blessed us with every good blessing and has provided everything that we call our own. See you there!

Family Fellowship Event

Families and kids of all ages are invited to our first Family Fellowship ministry event of the school year: Movie Day! On Sunday, November 17 starting at 1:00 pm, we'll watch "Inside Out 2" together, have some fresh-popped popcorn, and talk about ways our faith and emotions are connected. No need to RSVP.



Discovery Team Update

The Discovery Team will continue to meet through the end of 2024 to discuss long-term staffing and program strategies for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. We are on track to present our final recommendations to the church council in January, and to the wider congregation shortly thereafter.

Sunday School and Confirmation Sign Up

If your child (Pre-K through 8th grade) is interested in participating in our weekly ministry programs but isn't enrolled yet, it's never too late! Please reach out to Nick at nickc@splchastings.org for more information.

Poinsettias

It's time to order poinsettias for decorating the sanctuary at Christmas time. Sign up on the kiosk or call the office (651-437-6541) to order one in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Please put your donation in the envelope provided or note "Poinsettias" on the memo line of your check and drop in the offering plate, the secure drop box by the old office door or mail checks to St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Choose a white, pink or red poinsettia. The cost is \$11.50. The deadline is Friday, November 15.



River Valley Band Presents a Concert to Celebrate Our Veterans.

The River Valley Concert Band, under the direction of Mr. Thomas Maeck, will be presenting a free Veterans Day concert for Hastings and surrounding communities. The concert will be held on Sunday, November 10 at 1 pm at the Hastings Middle School Auditorium. This concert will showcase some wonderful patriotic instrumental music for your enjoyment and to celebrate our Veterans. So come, bring the kids and bring a friend too. A food donation to Hastings Family Service will be gathered and a free will offering to support the Band will be taken.

Benedictine Living Community

Regina is looking for volunteer support for its weekly ecumenical worship service. This is a worship service that happens on Mondays at 10:30 am in the Regina campus chapel. We are looking for volunteers who will bring residents to worship from the Care Center or who are willing to escort and stay with memory care residents during worship. We are also looking for individuals with musical gifts to provide music for our services. Please contact Regina Spiritual Care Director Kijrstin Almos at 651-404-7953 or at kijrstin.amos@benedictineliving.org to learn more about this opportunity!

2024 Philadazzle

December 1 marks the beginning of the Advent calendar at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. There will be sparkling water served at 5:15 pm followed by a catered dinner. After dinner, and starting at 7 pm there will be a multi-media concert, "Christmas Around the World," by talented and well-known Chris Falteisek, currently Minister of Music at Christ Episcopal Church, Woodbury, Minnesota.



Tickets (cash or checks) at \$25 each will be sold before and after services on November 10, 17 and 24 or in the church office after November 10. Ticket price includes both the dinner and concert. The Boy Scouts will again be assisting and a freewill offering will be taken on their behalf.

The concert begins at 7 pm and the public is encouraged to attend. There will be no admission cost, but a freewill offering will be collected from visitors.

Chris Falteisek's church work experience dates back to 1975 and he continues to inspire people through his stories, insights, customs, music, pictures, and videos. The audience will hear some of Chris' own compositions and arrangements, traditional, contemporary, and folk Christmas music from around the world. He has performed in many states, plus Norway and Sweden.

Chris Falteisek has studied at the University of St. Thomas graduate school, Edgewater College graduate school, Middleton, Wisconsin and University of River Falls graduate school.

This multi-talented man has many interests and hobbies: antiques, genealogy, photography, wrestling, and writing.

Please join us for an awe-inspiring evening, as a perfect start to the Advent Season.



Winter Wonderland Celebration: Bells of the Bluffs in Concert

Join Bells of the Bluffs Handbell Ensemble to ring in the holiday season with its Winter Wonderland Celebration concerts. Musical selections will range from holiday favorites to new compositions that add sparkle and joy to the season. Two concerts are planned:

- Friday, December 6, 7:00 pm, St. Luke Lutheran Church, 7000 Hinton Avenue South, Cottage Grove
- Saturday, December 7, 3:00 pm, First Lutheran Church, 615 West 5th Street, Red Wing; lunch will be offered at 12:30 pm by the First Lutheran Church youth group and Bells of the Bluffs will hold a fundraising silent auction

The concerts are open to the public; freewill offerings will be taken to help offset costs.

Bells of the Bluffs is an auditioned regional handbell ensemble including ringers from communities across central and southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. St. Philip's members ringing with Bells of the Bluffs include Melissa Campbell, Cynthia Clanton, Maria Gathje and LuAnn Roiger. Learn more at bellsofthebluffs.org.

Stewardship Emphasis Offers Monthly Temple Talks

To lift up the joy of giving through temple talks by members, the theme of "Abiding in God's Abundance" has become their focus. Marjorie Peterson gave her interpretation of the theme in September, by sharing all of what we have at St. Philip's which reminds us of our abundance, even including quotes from her Sunday School class.

Virginia Spence offered her message in October and Alex Zuzek will do a temple talk in November. Thanks to all temple talk participants who give of themselves in this way.



Keeping Connected

Greetings from Jan and Neil Misegades!

We have been members of St. Philip's for fifty-five years. When we moved to Hastings as a young married couple in 1969 one of our first goals was to find a Lutheran church home in town or a nearby location. We made a list of churches and



decided to visit a different one each Sunday in order to make our decision. By chance, St. Philip's was at the top of the list and the first one we visited. Each Sunday for several successive weeks, our choice was the same: "Let's go back to St. Philip's again". It didn't take long to realize that we had already found our church home. Our search was over.

Some things don't change over a span of fifty-five years. We are as grateful for our membership at St. Philip's today as we were when we "discovered" a newly formed Hastings congregation back in 1969. What did we find in those first visits that holds true today? First of all, the kindness and welcoming attitude of the members. We still recall the outstretched hands and smiles directed our way by the Schnirrings and the Van Vleets. We found a pastor who preached the gospel and made it meaningful to our everyday lives, a congregation involved with each other and a concept of community that knew no bounds. The St. Philip's that we found in 1969 still exists today!

Jan was born in Hamburg, Germany and moved to the United States with her parents when she was seven years old. She and her parents settled in Lombard, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Jan attended a Lutheran elementary school, Glenbard East High School and Moser Secretarial School. Her first job was with Borg-Warner International in downtown Chicago.

Six hundred miles across the country from Jan, Neil grew up on a dairy farm in Ottertail, Minnesota. Farm life was filled with hard work and good food. Dairy cattle and 4-H were some main interests. He attended a Lutheran elementary school, Henning High School and Concordia colleges in St. Paul and

Seward, Nebraska. His first job was as principal and teacher at a Lutheran elementary school in Melrose Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

Aha! A connection and answer to the question: "How did you two meet?" It was traditional at a Lutheran confirmation dinner held in the spring of 8th grade that the family would invite the student's teacher to the dinner. As the teacher, Neil was invited to a family celebration where Jan and her parents were also guests. He was seated across from Jan's parents and enjoyed an interesting conversation with them about their move from Germany to the U.S. Jan was seated several chairs away, involved in another conversation. Neil, however, took mental notes during the extended dinner conversation which allowed him to locate a phone number and call Jan the following week. The rest is history. Our paths would most likely not have crossed again and the dinner did not have an opportunity for us to exchange more than a couple of words. It was meant to be.

During the summer breaks from teaching, Neil completed requirements for a degree in guidance counseling from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. A job search for a counseling position led us to Hastings in 1969. Neil completed thirty-two years in counseling at Hastings High School in 2001. During this time Jan spent a total of about nine years as a legal secretary in private law practice. Following the private employment, she completed twenty-three years as a legal secretary at the Dakota County Attorney's Office.

Our son, Todd, and daughter, Lara, were both baptized and confirmed at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. They regularly attended Sunday School and participated in youth activities. At present, Todd lives in Hastings and is employed by Network Design, Inc., of Plymouth, Minnesota. He is an avid fisherman and hunter and spends as many weekends as possible at our lake property near Henning, Minnesota. Lara lives in Washington, D.C. and works for the Center for Disease Control. Her work and travel interests have taken her to Africa, St. Vincent and Europe. She recently traveled to Hamburg, Germany, where a visit to her 98-year old great-aunt was included.

Over the years either one or both of us have participated in maintaining and care of St. Philip's grounds, garage/plant sales, greeters, Sunday school teachers, working with youth groups, Meals On Wheels, Food Sort at HFS, assembling newsletters, and being available when Glenda calls.

The row of Annabelle hydrangea bushes planted along the 15th Street side of the church are in memory of Jan's mom. The slender, narrow maple near the east exit is in memory of her dad. We help to maintain these plantings and appreciate the many willing workers at St. Philip's who give of their time and energy to take care of the church grounds.

We remain as thankful for St. Philip's as we were fifty-five years ago when we discovered the kind, friendly and community-involved congregation at the corner of 15th and Pleasant. Struggles and complications are handled with determination, faith and grit. St. Philip's has truly remained true to the goals set by faithful pastors and determined members.

Dave and Barb Fry have lived in Hastings since 2021, returning to Minnesota from Frisco, Texas after Dave retired from Southwest Airlines and Barb retired from Blue Cross of Texas. Originally our plan was to be snowbirds keeping a place in Frisco, Texas and a place in Hastings. But, a few drives back and forth to Texas soon cured us of that fantasy.



Dave is originally from Bel Air, Maryland but left to join the Air Force in 1974. Barb is from Staples in central Minnesota. Dave has forty-two years in the airline business with thirty-one at Northwest Air Lines, a year with Delta and two years with Southwest. In fact, Barb and Dave met at Northwest Air Lines in 2001. Barb had worked in the Health Care industry as an analyst since leaving Northwest Air Lines and still does part time consulting. They both enjoy golfing and being outdoors in Minnesota. They definitely do not miss the Texas heat!

When we decided to move to Hastings we searched for a church home and in 2021 we Joined the St. Philip's family which has been a blessing for both Dave and Barb, the warm friendly atmosphere was the main attraction (and Pastor Greg's sermons of course!). Dave is currently on church council and volunteers his time with Hastings Family services sorting food and delivering Meals on Wheels.

A Commitment to Speaking the Truth

10/1/2024



In a perfect garden, created by God for the sake of humanity, evil entered in the form of deception and lies. Christians refer to this story, found in the biblical book of Genesis, as the *fall of humanity*. This foray into human sin began when Adam and Eve, the first humans created in the image of God, were deceived.

Humans have contended with the powers of deception ever since.

Yet we are a people who know and proclaim the power of God at work in the world. We proclaim the power of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, the one who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

We know that the power of truth is greater than the power of deceit.

We, the members of the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, speak with one voice to condemn the hateful, deceptive, violent speech that has too readily found a place in our national discourse. We lament the ways this language has led to hate-fueled action.

We refuse to accept the ongoing normalization of lies and deceit.

We recommit ourselves to speaking the truth and pointing to the one who is truth. We find courage in our collegiality and implore the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as our partners and friends, to join us as we:

- Pledge to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society.
- Commit to rigorous fact-checking, honoring God's command to "test everything; hold fast to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- Reject the use of humor that normalizes falsehood, remembering that our speech should "always be gracious" (Colossians 4:6).
- Boldly advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, emulating Christ's love for the least among us.
- Courageously interrupt hate speech, standing firm in the knowledge that all are created in God's image.
- Lean in with curiosity, engage with those who think differently and "put the best construction on our neighbor's action" (Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment).
- Amplify voices of truth.

Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, may we resist deception and lift up the truth that all members of humanity are created in the image of God.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all as we respond to the Spirit's invitation into this intentional commitment against deception and for truth.

In Christ,

The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ST. PHILIP’S STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor
pastorgeier@splchastings.org
Noreen Swanson, Organist
swansonhastings@centurylink.net
LuAnn Roiger, Handbell Choir Director
lroiger58@gmail.com
Kelsey Wormley, Children’s Choir
Director
kelseyw@splchastings.org
Christine Rydel, Business Manager
christiner@splchastings.org
John Diischer, Sound Board Technician
johnd@splchastings.org
Nick Clark, Interim Director of Children, Youth
and Families Ministries
nickc@splchastings.org
Lista Klocow, Office Manager
listak@splchastings.org
Becky Kaphing, Preschool Co-Director
preschool@splchastings.org
Lorelei Rein, Preschool Co-Director
preschool@splchastings.org
Rachel Moritz, Assistant Teacher
preschool@splchastings.org
Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher
preschool@splchastings.org

**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 10:40 am
Sunday School at 10:40 am

affix label here

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

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