

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

May 2025



May Events

Saturday, May 3

Park Clean-Up
8:30 am at Cari Park

Sunday, May 4

Educator Appreciation
Sunday
9:30 am

Friday, May 16

Preschool Field Trip

Saturday, May 17

Grounds Clean-Up Day
9:00 am

Wednesday, May 21

Grief Support Group
6:00 pm

Feed My Starving
Children
6:15 pm

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

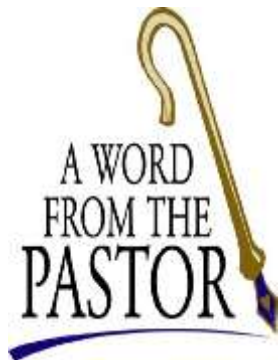
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Psalm 67

A professor once said that the sixth Sunday of Easter may feel a bit like the twelfth day of Christmas --



officially still in the zone but, practically speaking, most people have moved on. All the presents have been opened, the candy is long gone, I have proclaimed the Easter story, the most familiar Easter songs have been sung, the lilies have either wilted or been taken home.

Yet, our psalm for the sixth Sunday of Easter is so very appropriate for this season. Psalm 67 asks for a blessing that will make the Lord's way "known upon the earth," and God's "saving power among all nations". Surely that prayer is answered in the Resurrection of Christ!

This psalm works well for Easter. It declares that God's blessing -- and there is no blessing greater than Easter -- is for *all* people. We might be tempted at this particular time of year to feel deflated as the Easter crowd has drifted away. Psalm 67 does not go there. It imparts joy and prompts us to spread the Easter message everywhere. Easter reveals "the Lord's way as savior" and that "way" leads through death to resurrection, through darkness to light for the entire world. Psalm 67 reminds us that God's blessing is moving throughout the world to embrace "the nations" and "the peoples" of earth.

The Psalm is global. Its invitation is universal,

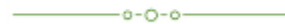
resounding in verse 3 and again in 5. "Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you." Verse 4 asks "the nations" to "be glad and sing for joy." Imagine being in a huge concert hall where massed choirs are singing from every side. The nations sing for joy because God judges *the people* with equity and guides *the nations* of earth. Everyone comes to the festival because God works in the history of all nations. Let us continue to join our voices in a global hymn of Easter praise!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated to Hastings Family Service food drive in the month of March. St. Philip's preschool and church members donated 695 pounds of food! All items collected will go a long way in helping our neighbors in need!



Thank you for all the prayers and cards during my surgery and as I learn to hear again.

Janice Dahl



Thank you to all of the JoyPhil Ringers and YouthPhil ringers for all of your dedication and leading worship this season. You all did a great job! I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

LuAnn Roiger, Bell Choir Director

– Among Our Own –

Congratulations...

Christian and Abbie (Williams) Waage on the birth of their baby boy, James Henry Waage on April 8

Kevin and Sandy Burke on their 45th wedding anniversary on May 10

Rich and Lori Freiermuth on their 40th wedding anniversary on May 18

Sympathies to...

Lori Best and family as they mourn the death of her mother Diane VanDervort

Avis Hunstad and family as they mourn the death of Duane Hunstad

Preschool Chatter

We cannot believe we are starting our last month of school for the year. It has been such a fun school year. In the month of April, the children were very busy learning flowers, the Easter story, and pond life. Some highlights of our month were planting sunflowers, learning the Easter story with a palm parade through the church, a visit from Miss Megan from the public library, and finally some outside time that included playground time.

We are really looking forward to our spring field trip this year which will be at Dodge Nature Center on May 16. We will be learning about life on the farm. A special treat this year we will be offering a pizza lunch after the trip to our students and chaperones. Thank you to everyone who supported our RaiseRight fundraiser to help cover this trip and special lunch for our students.

Our summer goal for RaiseRight will be to put money back into our scholarship fund to help struggling families. Normally this fund is used for a monthly need if families fall on hard times. We did have a family that fell on very hard times and with the support of our ministry team we were able to offer them a bigger scholarship this year to help them be able to still attend preschool! We are truly grateful for the support the congregation has given us through RaiseRight to do things otherwise we would not have been able to do! Remember that with RaiseRight if you shop at Cub/Walmart, etc. on a weekly/monthly basis, buying these cards for face value and/or reloading them will cost you nothing extra and really helps us out.

During the month of April, we also had parent teacher conferences. This is an important time in the spring particularly to talk with families about their child's progress. It is amazing to see how much these children progress and grow in the eight months we have had them in our school. Many of our students will be heading off to kindergarten this fall and it is a great opportunity for teachers to let parents know what to expect during the next exciting transition for their children.

As we begin to finish off this school year we are also already looking forward to the next one. Enrollment for fall is underway. Current numbers for next year are a little lower than where they were at this point last year. We do continue to see the number of children in the area declining. It remains a concern for our little program to have enough students enrolling to cover operating expenses. If you know anyone looking for a

preschool, please share our information. If you own a business where we could hang a flyer up or you are willing to place a sign in your yard to help us get the word out, please let us know. We are also looking to maybe post some families' personal experiences on our Facebook page. If you or your child attended St. Philip's Preschool and would like to share a fun story about what you enjoyed about the program, please feel free to share it directly on our preschool page/tag us in your story or email it to us and we'd be happy to post it.

As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors

Sunday Scripture Readings

May 4	Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
May 11	Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30
May 18	Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
May 25	Acts 16:9-15 Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5 John 14:23-29

Giving and Expense

2025	2024
March 2025 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$131,799.05	\$148,085.20
March 2025 YTD Capital Fund	
\$49,115.43	\$47,320.50
March 2025 YTD Expenses	
\$157,013.51	\$158,447.63
Net	
\$23,900.97	\$36,958.07
March 2025 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$24,587.21	\$23,275.68



Please make time to welcome Lydia Cummings as our new Director of Youth Ministries! Lydia and her family have been members of St. Philip's for several years and she has answered

the call to join our Staff Ministry Team. Be sure to read the article in this Newsletter to find out more about her.

With Lydia and our other recent addition, Meg Rein as our Director of Contemporary Worship, our Staff Ministry Team is at FULL STRENGTH for the first time since COVID! Prayers Answered! Please support both Lydia and Meg as God gives you opportunity.

Staff Updates

My name is Lydia Cummings, and I will be taking on the role of Director of Youth Ministries here at St. Philip's. I am a mother of two (Baker and Tatum), a special education teacher, and a member of St. Philip's Lutheran Church. I have been a part of the Faith Formation Ministry, and I have taught Sunday School for the past two years. I had been looking for other ways to grow and be a part of the church and connect with the community when I decided to move forward with pursuing this position.



Originally, I am from central Iowa where I was heavily involved with my church. I grew up attending every youth event offered and transitioned into teaching Sunday School as a high school student. Church was my safe space growing up. I knew who I was when I was there, and I felt loved. This is something I feel that has been missing from my adult life. Since having kids, I have been trying to find a balance of how I can fulfill professional and personal goals while continuing to feel full spiritually.

My husband, Ethan, and I moved to Hastings in 2017 and became members of St. Philip's in 2019. I have been teaching in Woodbury, Minnesota for the past twelve years. I have taught elementary Spanish and English to Speakers of other Language in the past. For the past seven years I have been a high needs special education teacher for elementary students. My whole life I have had a passion for helping others, seeing a need, and filling it. I am excited to work with our middle and high school students and build our youth program.

Farewell from Nick Clark

While those of us who are called to interim ministry deal with transition on a continual basis, I still always find it difficult to say goodbye to the people with whom I have worked side-by-side in ministry for many months. I thank you for your shared partnership, and for your support and enthusiasm throughout.



This past year at St. Philip's has been a wonderful, productive time! You have shared your patience, faith, and good humor; and for that I am very grateful. I am especially grateful for the members of the Discovery Team here: Vanessa Haltvick, Becky Kaphing, Kathy Luedtke, Kristian Ronning, Tiffany Stewart, Dan Strehlow, Peyton Thomas, and Emily Wormley. Your hard work will be a guiding light for youth and family ministry at St. Philip's for years to come.

We have come a long way on our journey together, culminating in the hiring of a Children's Ministry Director (Becky Kaphing) and a Youth Ministry Director (Lydia Cummings). Becky and Lydia bring incredible qualifications, passion, and creativity to their respective roles. I have every confidence that they will help St. Philip's live more deeply into its mission with young people in new and exciting ways. Please continue to support Becky and Lydia, and the many CYF volunteers, in their ministry – serve, pray, and grow with one another.

God has great things in store for this place! Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of this moment in time with you. As I leave St. Philip's Lutheran Church, know that I will keep you, your families, and your ministries in my prayers; and I ask that you keep me in yours as well.

Nick Clark

Interim Director of Children Youth and Family Ministry

Grief Support

"Grief changes shape, but it never ends." If you would like to share with others who have experienced the pain of losing a loved one, come and join us. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 21 at 6 pm in the Conference Room. And mark your calendars. The remaining 2025 Wednesday support meetings are:

September 3 at 6 pm

December 3 at 6 pm

Stewardship Notes...

The message below is an urgent one, coming from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota to Lutheran congregations in Minnesota. With federal funds having been stopped for refugee resettlement, LSS has been caught short of serving the forty-five families who arrived just before the freeze. It becomes our Stewardship call for May. See instructions below:



An urgent need has been brought to St. Philip's from Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. Forty-five refugee families arrived in Minneapolis just before federal funding for such purposes was stopped. Refugee families brought by LSS to America are thoroughly reviewed and are eager to achieve full resettlement and the expected responsibilities that follow.

LSS is requesting financial support to support the housing costs of forty-five families. LSS, estimates a need of \$110,000 to continue a stable transition of the forty-five families into Minnesota's communities.

St. Philip's is asked, as one of many congregations to help meet the housing costs of the refugee families through the summer. SPLC is an ongoing supporter of LSS in its annual budgeted giving. In these unique times however, St. Philip's, and/or its members are being given the opportunity to respond over and above that giving from our personal response of "God's Abiding Abundance."

Personal giving should be done by check, or other means payable to St. Philip's, with "LSS Refugee Appeal" on the memo line. All giving should be received by St. Philip's by May 15. Special envelopes can be found on the kiosk, or mail your gift to the church at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 1401 15th Street West, Hastings, MN 55033

God's blessings to you in your contemplation and prayerful consideration of this opportunity.

Adult Forum

May 4 - Rescheduled from April 13: Tiffany Newharth from Rise Up Recovery will join us to explain what they do and how they are using the portion of our building fund tithe that went to their organization to assist individuals, families and friends affected by drug and alcohol addictions.

May 11 - Join us for another session of The Wired Word. It may or may not have a Mother's Day theme, check the bulletin emailed Friday, May 8 to see what topic the presenter chose. Guaranteed to be a good Biblically based, discussion, regardless of topic.

May 18 - Nick Clark, the Interim Director of Children Youth and Family Ministry will lead the second part of the collaborative discussion on the state of youth ministry at St. Philip's. This is an important topic for the whole congregation: whether you are a parent, volunteer, or neither! We would love to have your voice heard.

We will talk about our shared ministry goals that we have for the whole congregation, potential challenges, and ways we might strategically address those challenges going forward.

This concludes our Sunday programs for the 2024-2025 school year. Be on the lookout for announcements for this summer's monthly Campfire Conversations and fall programing starting September 14.

Mark Your Calendars!



St. Philip's will be celebrating our high school graduating seniors on Sunday, June 1 at our 9:30 am worship!



Educator Appreciation Sunday

St. Philipians, did you know that the first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week? Since we are very blessed in our congregation with many educators, we would like to join the community and show our appreciation as well. If you are involved in education in any way, please attend worship on May 4 so that our congregation can recognize you. And please stay for some coffee and treats following the service. We are so grateful for the many ways you care for the children in our community and we want to thank you in person.

Confirmation SERVING Event!

Come join our confirmation students on Wednesday, May 21 as we make a difference by packing meals for hungry neighbors around the world! Volunteering at Feed My Starving Children is a great team-building experience. Enjoy working together to save lives and feed kids in a positive, energetic, and team-focused environment. We have 8-10 extra slots available.

If you have already participated in a FMSC event, then you know how much fun it is. If you have not done this yet, now is the time! Those who want to will meet at the church to form carpools and leave at 6:15 pm. Otherwise plan on being at 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136 in Eagan by 7:00 pm. Our slot to learn and work is from 7:00-8:30 pm and we hope to be back at the church around 9:00 pm.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School for preschool-age kids (potty trained) through kids who just finished fifth grade is happening July 14-17 from 9 am-12 pm. Camp Firelight is the perfect location for every Camper's favorite activities. Join first-time camp counselors Sam and Lu (the lightening bug puppet) for a summer camp adventure with God.

Registration forms can be found on the VBS table in the narthex or at www.splchastings.org. As always, we are also going to be in need of lots of teen and adult volunteers. Middle and high schoolers and adults are encouraged to volunteer for this fun event. Email Becky Kaphing at BeckyK@splchastings.org if you are interested.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

July 27 is our date for the St. Paul Saints baseball game. Join us on Dairy Day, when there should be lots of family friendly fun, zany activities with the opportunity for kids to run the bases after the game.



Reservations and payment of \$22 per ticket will be taken on April 27 and Sundays in May, or in the office during the week (checks made out to St. Philip's). Tickets will be passed out in July. Questions? contact Camille Nelson or Dolores Pemble.

Keeping Connected

I have moved. I no longer live in Nininger Township where my grandfather and his brother bought the land in the late 1800's. Or maybe it was the early 1900's.



I've been sorting, packing and hauling for weeks now. And I now think there's wisdom in moving every ten years or so. That way we wouldn't collect so much stuff. I have been going through my stuff, my children's stuff, and my parents' stuff.

Although it's been a chore, I have also discovered some wonderful treasures:

- **1851.** The German passport of my great-grandmother, Anna Vollmer. She married Jacob Schaar and became mother to Rudolph—my grandfather—and his brother Otto.
- **1914.** The wedding certificate of my grandparents Heinrich Trapp and Emma Krumm. They moved to Nininger Township, too.
- **1932.** The confirmation record of my mother Helen Trapp. She became Mrs. Howard Schaar.

Thanks to God for forefathers and foremothers, who were brave and moved to new places. And thanks especially for giving me a family that passed on a religious tradition!

Carolyn Schaar

2025 Garage & Plant Sale June 7 at 8 am-3 pm

As spring breaks through, so does the reality of St. Philip's annual Garage & Plant Sale on June 7. Find enclosed the green flyer for merchandise donors and volunteers. Look especially at items we cannot sell so there will not be unnecessary disappointment.

Very important is the daily calendar of work times and when items can no longer be accepted.

Sale set-up day moving with fixtures, shelving, and hangers from our garage plus moving items throughout the church is Sunday, June 1.

Your kind and generous donations will be happily received beginning Monday, June 2. Do not price them, but please have things clean and in good repair. If you are reading about this sale for the first time, know that it is St. Philip's 19th sale. It is a well-known event, but we ask everyone to help get the word out about June 7 being the sale day. There will be thousands of items in departments such as kitchen essentials, linens, puzzles, books, crafts, furniture, electronics and hardware, children's and adult clothing, toys, shoes, jewelry, home décor, sporting goods, luggage, and finally beautiful plants.

Every department has a lead or co-lead who directs volunteers on what needs to be done. Sign-ups to volunteers will begin Sunday, May 11. Plan to give of your time and be finding your donations all through May. If it is impossible for you to get your donations to the church during Sale Week, please contact Deborah Dreher for assistance. We look forward to another wonderful sale.

May Park Clean-Up

We have signed up to be part of the Hastings Park clean-up effort again. We have been assigned to Cari Park near Coborn's. This will take place at 8:30 am on Saturday, May 3. Meet by the park sign. We will have bags and pickers from the Park and Rec Department. There will be donut balls!

Emails went out mid-April to sign up at SignUpGenius. Do not miss this great service opportunity for families. It is fun for the whole family and generally takes less than an hour of your time.

If you have questions or have trouble signing up, contact Cindy Toppin at ctoppin409@gmail.com or call the church office.

Adopt a Spot

Spring is here and with it comes an opportunity to help keep St. Philip's grounds looking good through the summer. Weeds are the primary problem, and they grow everywhere.

Ten areas are listed on the kiosk. We are asking members who are able, to individually or with a fellow church member, to "ADOPT A SPOT." The time period is from May through September, tending to your spot whenever your schedule permits. Please sign up.

This need is a big one because of St. Philip's five acres. While we have spring and fall clean up days, the growth of thistles and other unsightly weeds are too much for the people who have tried to keep up. Please take this opportunity seriously and do it alone or find a partner for one of the spots. The Buildings and Grounds Team thanks you.



Spring Grounds Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 17

From 9 to 11:30 am on Saturday, May 18, we ask all who can help cut down the grasses around the rain gardens and perennials, plus help spread new mulch in certain areas. Bring garden tools like weed cutters, hoes and rakes and your gloves. Bags will be available for the cuttings. Coffee and rolls served at 11:30 am.



Confirmation Retreat

On March 29, our Confirmation students had an all-day retreat at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center. Pastor Geier and our adult volunteers led a four-part lesson on Jonah, as well as time for games, crafts, pizza, and socializing. Great times!



Sunday School Offering

Our children love to get up and put their offerings in the fishbowl during service. At Sunday school the children learned about animals that could be bought for others in need through Heifer International. We learned about ways each animal could help a family. Then the children got to vote on what animals they would like to buy for Heifer international. This time we will be sending two flocks of chicks and a sheep. Next the children are working toward a goat and an earth kit. The earth kit includes tree saplings and a beehive.



Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

Wednesday evening Lenten services have now concluded. An average attendance of seventy was maintained in the five-week period. The "Holden Evening Prayer" was the participating portion of the 45 minutes along with a meaningful meditation from Pastor Geier. Supporting vocalists led the music along with Dave Tank and Kurt Zabel on guitar.



Palm Sunday — “All Glory Laud and Honor” opened St. Philip’s Palm Sunday service. The typically celebratory feeling of Palm Sunday was displayed in the waving of a palm branch in the hands of all worshipers along with strong hymn singing.



Further understanding of Palm Sunday is explained to the children

Pastor Geier shows role plays that day in Jerusalem when Jesus was welcomed by spectators with waving palms. Children follow the pastor with ringing bells and a waving palms.

Doug and Danna Schultz served as ushers providing the palms and programs to all



Our preschoolers-1st graders got ready for Holy Week by creating palm leaves, listening to their teachers tell the story, watching the whirl video about communion, and decorating Easter cookies

Our 2nd- 4th graders went through a timeline of events that took place during Holy Week. They also added Holy Week items to their church seasons bulletin board. This is over by the old sanctuary. If you have not seen it, you should check it out.



Our fifth graders along with pastor Geier and their leaders learned how to make communion bread. This special bread was then used for communion on Maundy Thursday. Extra special is a lot of our 5th grade student's siblings received their first communion with bread made by their siblings.

First Communion and Maundy Thursday — Prior to their First Communion there were two introductory sessions for the youth and parents to prepare them for the big day. Saturday, April 11 students came together to practice for first communion and make their own communion banners.



On Maundy Thursday, we were able to celebrate with Elijah and Noah Ebel, Stella Haltvick, Mackenzie Klos, Jameson Stewart, Gordon Wormley, and Taylor and Austin Worthington, as they received Holy Communion for the first time. Be sure to congratulate them as they continue on their faith journeys!

As part of the service, fifth grade boys Grant Anderson, Harrison Haltvick, Connor Klos and Preston Stewart had studied, rehearsed, and almost professionalized their recitation of a portion of the Catechism when questioned by Pastor Geier.



Easter 2025 — Two worship times with 418 attending experienced their Easter with a jubilant declaration of “Christ is Risen!”. Pastor Geier framed his message around the title, “Leaving the Tomb Behind”.



The beauty of Easter and the faithful hearts of many enjoyed seeing the altar area adorned with flowers provided by twenty-eight members in honor or memory of loved ones.

The Joyful Ringers opened the 8:30 am service along with Unity, led by director, LuAnn Roiger, and Unity leader and organist, Noreen Swanson. Two hundred and eighteen were in attendance.



The 10:30 am hour, was supported by St. Philip's Choral Ensemble, led by Becky Raimann, and eight guest brass musicians from our high school. The combined group provided a rich backdrop to the beauty of the day. One hundred ninety-nine were in attendance.



An Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn was a fun sight.



ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

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ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541

www.splchastings.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service:

In Person and Livestream Worship at 9:30 am

(Livestream link on www.splchastings.org,

YouTube and Facebook)

Sunday Education Hour:

Adult Forum at 10:40 am

Sunday School at 10:40 am

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