

The Philippián

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 2025

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Graduates Recognition Sunday

June 1 at 9:30 am

Vacation Bible School (July 14-17)

Registration Open

Garage & Plant Sale

Set-up: Sunday, June 1 – Friday, June 6

Sale: Saturday, June 7 from 8 am – 3 pm

Outdoor Worship Service with Double Down Daredevils

June 8 at 9:30 am

Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship

Applications Deadline June 20

Families of Faith Fellowship Event

Sunday, June 22 from 10:30 am – 12 pm

Campfire Conversations

June 22 at 6:30 pm

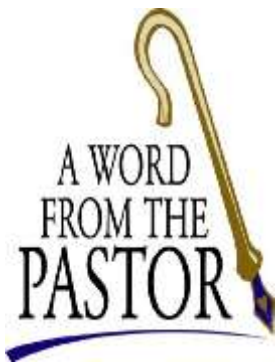
Middle School Fellowship Event

June 29 from 7-9 pm

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "[I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Luke 9:57-58

From the Gospel lesson for June 29



We all would like to follow Jesus. We are, after all, Christians aren't we? Part of being a Christian disciple is being committed to following our Savior, Jesus Christ. We can identify with the man who comes to Jesus in the above passage. Following Jesus seems just seems like the right thing to do.

However, like the man in this passage from Luke, we may not realize what it really means to follow wherever Jesus leads. In the verses that immediately follow the above passage, two others who would follow Jesus have excuses as to why they cannot immediately join in Jesus' journey. Their reasons are good reasons. They are reasons that we would certainly excuse.

However, that is not part of Jesus' way of doing things. Jesus never says that following him will be a cakewalk. Jesus never says that discipleship is easy or fun. Jesus never promises prestige or recognition in the eyes of the world. Ultimately, Jesus promises a cross.

This is because to share the love of God in the way that Jesus shares the love of God ultimately always results in animosity from the world. To love as Jesus loves is to love without limitations, without prerequisites, without consideration of how the world will view it. When we love as Jesus loves, we do not first think, "How will this make me look?" We do not first think, "Does this person deserve to be loved?"

Following Jesus means that our relationship with Jesus comes first. Following Jesus means that our relationship with Jesus shapes and affects every other relationship we have. It shapes and affects our relationships with our spouse, children, parents,

siblings, employer, employees, friends, neighbors, and even our enemies.

When we say that we want to follow Jesus wherever he goes, we need to know that Jesus goes places we would never choose to go ourselves. Jesus goes to reach out to those in our communities who are struggling and hurting. Jesus goes out to those who have never visited a church. Jesus goes to those who have no power or voice or influence in the world around them. Jesus goes to those struggling with depression, anxiety, or any number of mental illnesses, but who are afraid to share for fear of the stigma attached to their diseases.

As self-proclaimed disciples of Jesus, let us ever be aware of what it means to follow Jesus wherever he goes. And let us pray that the Holy Spirit will give us strength and conviction to walk the path of discipleship, sharing Christ's love with the whole world.

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*

– Among Our Own –

Congratulations...

Lucas Rodger Nichols (son of Tony and Kelly Nichols) blessings on his baptism

Joseph and Veronica Schroeder on their 15th wedding anniversary on June 5

Jerry and Pat Klebs on their 60th wedding anniversary on June 12

Derek and Jami Kuglin on their 20th wedding anniversary on June 18

Mike and Ellie Lundstrom on their 20th wedding anniversary on June 18

Todd and Julie Sieben on their 20th wedding anniversary on June 18

Luke and Ali Butze on their 5th wedding anniversary on June 20

Bryce and Megan Garvey on their 5th wedding anniversary on June 27



Preschool Chatter

It's hard to believe another year of preschool has come to an end. As we have mentioned before, our program numbers were low again this year. That being said, we were grateful to serve thirty-six children this year. It truly has been a gift to be able to work with preschool children and watch them grow over the past nine months.

May was a busy and exciting month for our students. Our themes for the month included pond life, bugs, farm, and Summer plans. Whether it was hopping like frogs, watching caterpillars change into butterflies, enjoying outside time with our new outdoor chalk boards, or just playing with our friends, it was a great last month of school.



On Friday, May 16 all of our children loaded on the school bus and headed to Dodge Nature Center in Cottage Grove. The highlight is always riding on the big bus. We enjoyed the morning learning about farm life and animals. The children

were able to pet a variety of animals and a fan favorite feed some chickens. When we returned families shared some fellowship time with an indoor pizza picnic. On May 22 and 23 we held our end of the year programs. The children were able



to share some of their favorite preschool songs/story with their families, receive their portfolios and diplomas, enjoy a slide show of their school year, 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 Dodge Nature center, new toys, special parties, support HFS by buying and donating twenty-four birthday kits, and

helping a struggling family with tuition. Thank you so much for your continued support to our little program.

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. Please remember, if you know anyone looking for preschool please be sure to share our information. Thank you for supporting this important ministry of St. Philip's!

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer with family and friends.

Blessings,
Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors

Thank You...

Thanks to the response of many St. Philip's members, the donations to the LSS Refugee Appeal is \$11,650.

This is an outstanding response, filled with the spirit of "helping those with less", as we know St. Philip's always does. Lutheran Social Service will use this help to meet the shortfall resulting from the freezing of federal funding for refugees in April. Forty-five families had already arrived and put in safe apartments ready to receive help in housing, education, employment and navigating around a new city and land. LSS will be humbled by St. Philip's help. Churches throughout Minnesota were asked to help meet a \$110K shortfall. Final remarks from LSS will be relayed to St. Philip's very soon.

Grateful thanks. Glenda Schnirring, LSS ambassador

GIVING AND EXPENSE	
2025	2024
April 2025 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$177,730.35	\$197,423.60
April 2025 YTD Capital Fund	
\$58,957.80	\$63,771.00
April 2025 YTD Expenses	
\$237,715.81	\$212,745.17
Net	
(\$1,027.66)	\$48,449.43
April 2025 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$32,666.27	\$30,972.79

Abiding in God's Abundance

I find the season of spring to be a wonderful time to reflect. With warmer temperatures and freshly bloomed fragrant trees inviting me outside for some much-needed sun exposure following the grasp of winter, I'm grateful for Glenda's request to write for the newsletter, giving me an opportunity to reflect further on God's abundant blessings on my life, and how St. Philip's has been my church home through childhood years as well as today.



When my family moved from Hayward, Wisconsin to Hastings in 1998, I was in second grade. We searched for a church home and felt a warm welcome at St. Philip's. I joined the Children's Choir in the fall of that same year. I have fond memories of children's choir rehearsals, participating in the musicals, ushering as a family, Sunday School, greeting Noreen at the organ after service concluded, and playing the piano. Also, Vacation Bible School (VBS), traditional and praise services, summer and family camps at Shores...the list of rewarding experiences is plentiful.

When I moved back "home" with my wife, Lorena, in 2017 and Annabella (age 10) was an only child at the time, it was comforting to reconnect with St. Philip's and enter a regular worship routine and resume playing the piano from time to time. As my family has grown, Elijah (4) and Amelia (2) have both been baptized at St. Philip's and Elijah joined Annabella for summer VBS. Elijah enjoys an uplifting experience in Miss Becky's preschool class.

It gives me great joy to see my children now enjoying activities at church that I also enjoyed as a child, including choir, piano, and Sunday school. I'm grateful for the abundance of teachers and leaders (children, and adults) who help to shape the learning path and faith journey of children at St. Philip's and interact with the younger children in our congregation. I've made many new connections with other families through my children's activities and conversations following worship. A bright future is in store for our youth program and I'm eager for the activities to continue. Lorena and I are blessed for these connections and conversations.

I hope you also have time to rest and reflect this season, abiding in God's abundance with family and friends during this awesome spring season.

In Christ's Service,
Sam Willis

Sunday Scripture Readings

June 1	Acts 16:16-34 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26
June 8	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17 [25-27]
June 15	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
June 22	Isaiah 65:1-9 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39
June 29	Acts 12:1-11 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 John 21:15-19

Vacation Bible School

We are so excited to be in full swing of planning for Camp Firelight VBS. Now is the time to register your children age 3 (and potty trained) through finishing 5th grade for camp July 14-17 from 9 am - 12 pm. Registration forms can be found on the VBS table in the narthex or at www.splchastings.org.



We also need a lot of volunteers to make this week possible. If you are interested in volunteering, please be sure to fill out a volunteer form to help me keep track of who's helping. We need helpers in all different areas so I'm sure we can find something you'll feel comfortable with. We are looking for youth in 6th grade and up through adults to help. If you have any questions for your children or volunteering, please reach out to Becky Kaphing at beckyk@splchastings.org



St. Philip's will be celebrating with our high school graduating seniors on Sunday, June 1 at our 9:30 am worship! Join us as we congratulate and support these neat young adults as they commemorate this milestone!

Families of Faith Fellowship Event

On Sunday, June 22 families young and old are invited for yard games from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. We will have bubbles for littles, gaga ball, corn hole, and more. Whether you want to play or just join in some fellowship we hope to see you there.

Youth Ministry Updates

Middle School

Our first middle school fellowship event is coming up on June 29 from 7-9 pm. We will be having a bonfire, making s'mores, playing games, and making plans for future events! This event is for anyone going into 5-8 grades. Students are welcome to come by themselves or to bring a friend or two, the more the merrier! RSVPs are not required but appreciated for buying food. If you plan to come, send an email to Lydia at lydiac@splchastings.org or touch base with her after worship service. We still need a couple of volunteers to help make this night a success. If you are skilled in managing a bonfire, know how to play gaga ball, or you simply like to hang out around a fire, please consider volunteering for this event!

High School

Students entering grades 9-12 continue to have the opportunity this month to meet with Lydia for coffee, ice cream, Chipotle, etc. to talk about what types of fellowship and service events they are interested in pursuing this year. If you are a student or you have a student that falls into this category, please reach out to Lydia to set up a time to meet. Our first official group event in July will focus on turning the old sanctuary into an official Youth Room. Look for updates about the Youth Room in the July newsletter as we will be looking for volunteers!

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, June 1 we will be celebrating all our graduating high school seniors during worship. Parents of seniors, you should have received an email last week from Lydia Cummings providing a link to a quick Google Form detailing information about the service and requesting a few basics about your student to add to the bulletin and slides. If you feel that you should have received this email and did not, please reach out to Lydia at lydiac@splchastings.org or find her after worship today. We would love to be able to honor all our seniors that day!

Lydia Cummings Installed

St. Philip's is proud and happy to announce that Lydia Cummings has been added to its staff to coordinate events and activities for grades 5 through high school. Following the appointment of Becky Kaphing for the lower grades, this is a wonderful enhancement of St. Philip's educational foundation for its young students. We welcome Lydia and pledge to her the congregation's full support.



Campfire Conversations Coming This Summer!

We are spending three evenings 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 22 at 6:30 pm – Mental Health – It's Not Just You. When we're physically hurt, we typically acknowledge it, talk about it, or do something about it. When we mentally hurt, not so much. This conversation gets into mental health, and how a people of faith can and should engage it.

One in five American adults experience a mental health problem, one in ten young people experience major depression, and one in twenty-five have a serious mental health issue.

People of faith can do better than quoting Jesus on birds and lilies from Matthew 6, or suggesting that if someone's faith were strong enough they wouldn't need medication or continuing any other number of unintentionally or intentionally shaming responses. We need to do better.

Upcoming topics:

July 20 – Discerning Good Government

August 10 – God and Sports: Silly or Serious?

St. Philip's Garage & Plant Sale

The 20th year of the St. Philip's Garage & Plant sale on June 7 from 8 am - 3 pm is upon us and many volunteers are needed to donate, help stage, and very importantly help MOVE IN, and TAKE DOWN the fixtures which are brought in to stage the sale. This large sale has created a following from the south metro counties and it's become a novel and almost sacred brand builder for St. Philip's congregation.

Your donations are also needed from all who are able. It is YOU who make it happen and we appeal to you again to find good material donations. Look at the enclosed handout of things we can't accept. We like things clean, in working order and not terribly outdated.

Remember to bring things in Monday, June 2 through Wednesday, June 4, from 9 am to 8 pm and Thursday, June 5 from 9 am to 6 pm. Exception: adult clothing donations need to stop at 12 noon on Wednesday, June 4. Please do whatever you can.



Chief Coordinator of the Garage & Plant Sale, Deborah Dreher, was updating the congregation on the upcoming sale during a recent service



Hard working volunteers



Appreciating All Those in Education

St. Philip's designated May 4, as Educator Appreciation Sunday. Marjorie Peterson and Camille Johnson Oster, created a full litany of people in education that need our notice and thanks. They asked people to stand at whatever level of education they have at one time participated. A reception in the narthex followed the worship service.



This beautiful banner was created especially for the day.

St. Paul Area Synod Women's Organization

A convention was held on May 3, for what is called "SWO", of which St. Philip's WELCA organization is a part. Glenda Schnirring and Patty Todnem serve on the governing board of SWO. St. Philip's WELCA group actively supports global and regional causes supported by SWO. Five WELCA members attended the Convention at Holy Cross in Oakdale.

This quilt made by St. Philip's volunteers was donated to the convention for distribution by LSS. Glenda Schnirring, Patty Todnem, Darla Kimmes and Sue Cruse are holding the quilt. Kathy Luedtke also attended the convention.



Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being taken for the 2025 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 2025-26. 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 20.

Tree Pruning Became the Work of the Day in Early May

Young and older trees were examined recently by the city arborist in terms of their being pruned. Two very large trees were pruned, and one tree removed by Rivertown Tree. About two dozen smaller trees were done by our own skilled members. Bruce Arndtson was the lead person in the effort.



The five-member team which worked two hours pruning many trees and hauling away the cuttings were Bruce Arndtson, Bill Pavlish, Dave Tank, Steve Wolverton and Paul Swanstrom (not pictured.) Many thanks for the grounds beautification they did.



Outdoor Worship Service Sunday June 8 at 9:30 am

The Double Down Daredevils bluegrass band, with our own Mary Ellen Fox as a member, will lead us in music for the Outdoor Worship Service. 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.

Sunday School Class Expressing Service as Worship Ushers

Teachers Marjorie Peterson, Bernita Weber, and helper Sophia Villavicencio, (not pictured) teach students grades 2, 3, and 4 during the school year. They recently created a bulletin board about the seasons of the church year which is worth a look in the old narthex area.



Left to Right - Hazel, Mackenzie, Elijah, Corben, Espen, Gordon, and Stella



Done by grades, 2, 3 and 4, as a learning experience

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 are happening Sundays through June 1, 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.

A Strong Music Finish with Youth and Adult Vocal Offerings

Kelsey Wormley' Children's Choir warmed the hearts of worshippers on a recent May Sunday. With memorized lyrics and microphone support they sounded great.



Becky Raimann directs the adult chorale group during nine months of the church year. The Ladies Choral Ensemble offered a stirring anthem for the Mother's Day worship.



May Park Clean-Up

Another successful park cleanup was held on Saturday, May 3. We had a great group of volunteers, as you can see pictured here. There was one interesting find among the trash. Who do you think left the frying pan in the park? Thanks to everybody who volunteered!



Sunday School Celebration

On May 4 children celebrated the end of Sunday School with outdoor games and activities. It was an absolutely beautiful day of fellowship time. We are so grateful to all our families that participated in Sunday School and to all our awesome teachers.



Confirmation Celebration

The confirmation students celebrated a great year of confirmation with an evening of fellowship and fun on May 14.



Worship Leaders June 2024

	June 1 Graduates	June 8 Outdoor Worship	June 15	June 22	June 29
	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
Worship Coordinator	Judy Hansen Michelle Carlson	Jay & Becky Raimann	Dolores & Dave Pembie	Glenda Schnirring Deborah Dreher	Bob & Susan Cruse
Greeter	Rich & LuAnn Roiger	Jay & Becky Raimann	Kent & Pam Hoffman	Tom & Cheryl Bullington	Ron & Cindy Toppin
Usher	Steve Wolverton Al Todnem	Jay & Becky Raimann	Bob & Susan Cruse	Doug & Danna Schultz	Bruce & Brenda Arndtson
Lector	Lori Best	Patty Wilson	Jennie Thomas	Margaret Cox	David Weisser
Communion Bread	Pastor Geier Lori Best		Pastor Geier Barb Jorenby	Pastor Geier Marjorie Peterson	Pastor Geier Deborah Dreher
Communion Wine	Darla Kimmes Katy Lindberg		Darlene Olson Patty Todnem	Lois Wroge Judy Werner	David Weisser Virginia Spence
Acolyte	TBD		TBD	TBD	TBD
Sound Board	TBD		TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Offering Counters	Ron Toppin Bob Cruse	Judy Hansen Denny Kohn	Pam Hoffman Mary Rock	Deb Frandrup Deborah Dreher	Ron Toppin Bob Cruse
Prayer Team	Barb Jorenby	Judy Werner	Geri Holmseth	Vonnie Olson	Jennie Thomas
Music Leader/Cantor	Meg Rein		Unity	Darlene Olson	Jan Kochendorfer
Organist/Musicians	Meg Rein Praise Band	Double Down Daredevils	Noreen Swanson/ Unity	Noreen Swanson	Noreen Swanson

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)

2025 June		St. Philip's Lutheran Church				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Praise Worship / Graduates 10:40 AM Garage & Plant Sale Set-Up 11:30 AM Faith Formation 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	2 Garage & Plant Sale Set-Up 9:00 AM - 8 pm Garage & Plant Sale Drop Off 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM CMT	3 Garage & Plant Sale Set-Up 9:00 AM - 8 pm Garage & Plant Sale Drop Off 3:30 PM Unity 5:00 PM Fellowship Ministry 6:00 PM Worship & Music Ministry	4 Garage & Plant Sale Set-Up 9:00 AM - 8 pm Garage & Plant Sale Drop Off 7:00 PM Revelation Zoom Bible Study	5 Garage & Plant Sale Set-Up 9:00 AM - 6 pm Garage & Plant Sale Drop Off (except adult clothing drop off is until 12 pm) 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days	6 Garage & Plant Sale Set-Up	7 8:00 AM Garage & Plant Sale 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
8 PENTECOST 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship / Nye Baptism 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	9 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Preschool Ministry 6:30 PM Finance Ministry	10 3:30 PM Unity	11 7:00 PM Revelation Zoom Bible Study	12 9:30 AM WELCA Meeting / Circle Bible Study 12:00 PM Bender HVAC Maintenance	13	14 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Spiral Theater Staff Training
15 Father's Day HOLY TRINITY Newsletter Deadline Raise/Right Orders Due 9:30 AM Worship 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	16 10:30 AM Chapel @ Benediction 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Council	17 3:30 PM Unity	18 7:00 PM Revelation Zoom Bible Study	19 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days 7:00 PM Scout Committee	20 Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship Applications Deadline 10:00 AM Newsletter Assembly	21 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
22 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Family of Faith Fellowship Event 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023 6:30 PM Campfire Conversations	23 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Spiritual Growth	24 9:00 AM Fire Equipment Annual Testing 3:30 PM Unity	25 10:00 AM Chapel @ Oak Ridge 7:00 PM Revelation Zoom Bible Study	26	27	28 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
29 9:30 AM Worship / Waage Baptism 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023 7:00 PM Middle School Bonfire Night	30 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	Jul 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	Notes				

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)

affix label here

TIME DATED MATERIAL

**Return Service Requested

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