

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 2025 Events

Middle School Day Camp
July 11
2-5 pm

Vacation Bible School
July 14-17
9 am - 12 pm

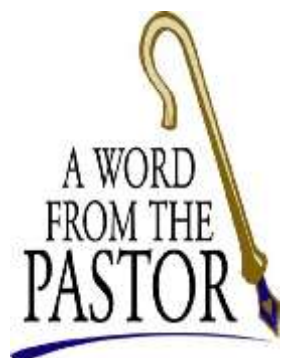
Campfire Conversation
July 20
6:30 pm

High School
Pizza and Paint Night
July 27
7-9 pm

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Luke 11:13

from the gospel for July 27



Well? What do you think? Do most parent know how to care for their children? They must, for about the most common commendations of even evil people is, "He/she was a caring father/mother." This phrase or something very much like it is probably the most frequent statement found in the daily obituaries. Even criminals and drug dealers love their children. The police have captured some wanted men in the past by keeping watch on their children, confident that the criminal parent would seek to contact the child.

Jesus makes his point: If it's true that bad folks can do things for their sons and daughters, just imagine the great good the author of good, the heavenly Father will do for God's children!

No evil comes from God. No harm hides within our Lord's active care. Even the worst things that befall us, Paul testifies, are able to be worked by our loving Lord for something good. (See Romans 8:28) Do you want proof that that is true? Look at Calvary, on a Friday that only children of the Father would call good.

Every one of us who is a parent knows that we have all fallen short of loving our children perfectly. Our own habits and idiosyncrasies that we received from our parents become evident in each new generation and not all of them are good. But we do our best and hope for the best and trust that somehow, some way, our

daughters and sons will know how very much we love them.

Somehow, some way, God chose to love us with a perfect love and bestow on us his unconditional grace, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus Christ. As God's children, we are given the gift of faith to know and trust our heavenly Father loves us and will bless us with good gifts in this life, and with eternal salvation in the life to come. Thanks be to God!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier

– Among Our Own –

Congratulations...

Molly Kate Nye (daughter of John and Katie Nye) blessings on her baptism

Congratulations to all those celebrating their wedding anniversary in July. Listed below are couples reaching a special anniversary i.e. 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, etc...

Collin and Linda Anderson on their 30th wedding anniversary on July 1

Lance and Lois Twedt on their 50th wedding anniversary on July 5

Darla and George Kimmes on their 52nd wedding anniversary on July 7

Jordan and Jen Klos on their 15th wedding anniversary on July 10

Dave and Diane Filkins on their 51st wedding anniversary on July 13

Jim and Patty Norwig on their 35th wedding anniversary on July 14

Tim and Kay Rowan on their 45th wedding anniversary on July 18

Al and Patty Todnem on their 61st wedding anniversary on July 25

Sympathies...

Jordan Klos and family as they mourn the death of his grandfather Louis Dura



Thank You...

THANK YOU to the ladder crew - Bruce Akin, Kent Hoffman Dave Filkins, Dave Pemble, Dave Tank and Steve Wolverton - who came in to help adjust the lighting in the sanctuary and to replace burned out bulbs.

John Diischer, Sound Board Technician

Sunday Scripture Readings

July 6	Isaiah 66:10-14 Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 13	Deuteronomy 30:9-14 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37
July 20	Genesis 18:1-10a Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42
July 27	Genesis 18:20-32 Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19] Luke 11:1-13

VBS Donation Board

If you took any of the supply donation tags from the board please be sure to return them by July 6 (unless your tag was otherwise dated) so Becky can make sure we have everything we need. Supplies can be placed in the VBS labeled wagon in the narthex. Thank you for your support and generosity.

VBS Volunteer Meeting

Anyone signed up to help with VBS we will be having a volunteer meeting on July 12 from 9:30-11:30 am or July 13 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm (or sooner if we are all set up). We will go over music, rules, run down of the day, decorate and set up stations. Please let me know if you are unable to make it. Also, we could use some extra hands/muscle on Sunday after church to set up tables and chairs if you are available.

Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School

We are so excited for our summer adventure with Lu (the firefly) as we explore our way through the bible with this fun camping theme. VBS is the week of July 14-17 from 9 am-12 pm and is open to kids age (fully potty trained) – just finished 5th grade. If you have not yet registered, please do so no later than July 6. If you have ever thought of volunteering for this exciting week please reach out to Becky Kaphing. No experience is needed and we work in buddy systems so you'll never have to do anything on your own. It really is a rewarding experience. Please reach out to Becky at beckyk@splchastings.org with any questions on registering your child or yourself.



Also, please be sure to keep all our volunteers and children in your prayers for a safe and fun week.

July Youth Ministries Update

Summer is now in full swing, and that means one thing – FUN in the SUN! We are planning some exciting events over the next few months. If you're in middle or high school, be sure to check your schedules so you can join us! Even if the event description does not sound like something you would be interested in, we encourage you to come and join us. Did we mention there would be snacks?

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help these events run smoothly. If you are available to lend a hand with anything this summer, please connect with Lydia Cummings either in person or email her at lydiac@splchastings.org. Even if you are available for only a portion of an event, your time would be valued!

If you are a high school student in search of service opportunities, consider helping with the middle school events. They are a great way to earn your hours while serving as a mentor for those who are a few years younger.

GroupMe

To communicate general reminders, collect RSVPs, and send updates for events, we will utilize the GroupMe app. This is a free group messaging app that will allow us to send direct messages to those who have opted in to using it. For those who do not want to download the app but want the updates, they can connect with Lydia, and she will set them up with the SMS-only mode, where they will receive text messages. The app has many features, but at the beginning, we will solely be using it for information. Scan the blue QR code to join our group today! GroupMe will not replace communication in newsletters or the bulletin. It will help to streamline planning for events.



Middle School Day Camp

On July 11 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, students entering grades 5-8 are invited to come to church for a day of camp fun! We will be enjoying some camp classics (tie dye and tug of war), with a few surprises along the way. This is a do-not-miss opportunity for fun this summer! We will be providing bandanas for everyone to tie-dye; you are welcome to bring another piece of clothing if you would like to dye something else. Come on your own or bring a friend! If you know you are coming, RSVP through GroupMe or send Lydia an email at lydiac@splchastings.org.

High School Pizza and Paint Night

On July 27 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, we will be working on transforming the Old Sanctuary into the new Youth Room! Do you have an eye for interior design? Do you like to rearrange furniture? Do you enjoy eating pizza and chatting with friends? We've got something for everyone tonight! Be sure to RSVP through GroupMe or via the QR code so we can order enough pizza!



Sunday School Teachers Needed

I know it's July but it's time to start thinking about Sunday school. What we learned from InterServe with Nick last year is that many people in this congregation love and want to support our children. Helping with Sunday school is a wonderful way to do this. There are many ways this help can look. You can sign up to group teach for the whole year which is so great for building relationships but I would also like to open up some conversations about group teaching, classroom volunteers on a month by month basis, or a weekly sign up to volunteer. Helping with Sunday school is something that anyone from confirmation students, high schoolers, parents, or grandparents can be involved with. We learned from Nick the more people who get involved in our young people's lives the more they feel connected to the church which is what we all want. The curriculum we use has lots of fun ready to go activities so prep can be minimal but it also has freedom to add ideas to it. So, if you like kids and love Jesus let's chat about how you may be able to help!

Becky Kaphing
Director of Children's Ministries

Calling All Bell Ringers

The JoyPhil Ringers of St. Philip's Lutheran Church is looking for two additional adult ringers starting in the fall. We rehearse from September through May on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. I will be happy to spend some time this summer teaching anyone who is interested in joining this ministry group. Please give me a call if you are interested or if you have any questions. LuAnn Roiger (651-437-2730).

Flower Vases

Do you have any flower vases you would like to rehome? We are looking for vases that could be used for the altar flowers. A good size is between 8"-10" high with a wide opening to fit a bouquet of flowers. You can drop them off in the box near the church office.

Campfire Conversation

July 20 at 6:30 pm
Discerning Good Government



Bring a chair and join our time of guided conversation and fellowship around our campfire ring. For those who are interested, there will be material available ahead of time, but there is no requirement. (There will be a few extra chairs.)

It is worthwhile to have a conversation about what makes for good government. There won't be specific resources on topics like DOGE, tariffs, or international relations, but there will be sections on Jesus and authority, Luther's "two kingdoms" doctrine, governance vs. politics, and Christian duty to civic engagement.

You probably have thoughts and opinions about government – and hopefully are actively considering how your faith informs your hopes for how those in power govern. This conversation isn't really about politics, but rather about governing, and what makes for good governing, in light of faith and Jesus' teaching.

Update from Hastings Family Service

"For the first time ever, we have surpassed 300 families for in-person and drive-thru food shelf orders in a single month. Throughout May, we distributed over 38,000 pounds of food to all of our neighbors across all food programs at HFS."

Food rescue provided 17% of the food given to neighbors. St. Philip's provides volunteers for Food Rescue three Mondays a month. We sort through donated food, toss out the bad/expired stuff (which goes to feed farmers pigs, chickens and llamas!), and keep the "good" to put on the shelves. And remember that Food Rescue didn't even exist three years ago. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help their neighbors in this way. New volunteers are always welcome. Look for the signup genius that goes out around the 25th of the month. Questions: Call the Toppins at 651-353-7143 or email: ctoppin409@gmail.com.

Lutheran World Relief Fall School Supply Drive

It seems like summer is just starting, but by the time the August newsletter comes out, school supply sales will be in full swing! We will be packing the Lutheran World Relief School Kits again this year on Rally Sunday, September 7. While we have some bags left over from last year, one Thrivent grant will not cover enough for this year. If anyone would like to contribute early, it would help us order the bags in a timely fashion. Special envelopes for the LWR School Kit project can be found at the Welcome Center.

As school supplies come out later in the month, here is what we need for each kit:

FOUR spiral notebooks of 70 pages of EITHER wide or narrow rule paper

ONE pair blunt children's scissors – generics are good quality, no need for brand name.

ONE 2.5" pink eraser

ONE box 16 or 24 crayons, Crayola brand, please - they ship and work better and aren't that much more expensive than generics

FIVE ball blue or black ball point pens (no gel ink!!!) - stick pens are fine!

ONE 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (but none without centimeters!)

ONE pencil sharpener - shaving catchers are nice but not essential

FIVE UNSHARPENED #2 pencils

Traditionally, the things the local big box store runs out of first are the pencil sharpeners and reasonably priced rulers and the limiting item every year has been the spiral notebooks, which become completely unavailable at decent prices anywhere about the third week in August. Please keep these issues in mind as you shop. Should physically shopping be a hardship for you, donated money will be used to "even up" the supplies or given to LWR for shipping costs.

Interested in where the packed Kits go? Check out the poster on the bulletin board in the hall between the Preschool rooms.

Other questions, please contact Jan Kochendorfer or Jennie Thomas.

Abiding in God's Abundance

In a world full of challenges, uncertainties, and constant change, there is one unwavering truth that stands firm: the grace of God. It is by His grace that we are sustained, empowered, and deeply loved. For individuals and communities alike, including St. Philip's Lutheran Church, God's grace is not just a theological concept—it is a lived reality. It shapes our daily walk, our collective mission, and our purpose as worshipers and disciples.



My challenge lately, has been time. My time has been stretched between my parents, children, grandchildren, and an understanding wife. During this struggle, I have witnessed a wonderful, deep love between my mom and dad. I have seen my daughters loving patience with their children while they balance being moms and wives and pursue careers, and I have my wife who understands me more than I understand myself.

Through my challenges with time, God has shown me deep marital love, the loving patience of a parent, and an understanding me. God's abundant love overflows in every part of my life. My time struggles are just God's way of opening my eyes to His abundance of love and grace.

The beauty of God's love is that it transforms us. It reshapes our hearts, renews our minds, and restores our purpose. When we live with an awareness of this love, we walk differently. We extend kindness, show patience, and strive for justice, because we are secure in God's love.

God is not only gracious—He is abundantly generous. His blessings overflow in ways we often can't fully comprehend. These blessings come in many forms: spiritual growth, loving relationships, health, provision, peace, and a sense of calling. Every breath we take is a reminder of God's abundant goodness.

As I reflect on God's grace, His abundant blessings, and my journey as a member of St. Philip's Lutheran Church, may we be stirred to

deeper gratitude and devotion. Let us not take lightly the immense love poured out on us, but instead, let it fuel our worship, inspire our service, and unite us in our mission to proclaim Christ's love to the world.

Dan Strehlow

Let There Be Light and Sound

On June 12, six members answered the call for help moving St. Philip's monster ladder which reaches ceiling lights and projectors when the right people are on hand. John Diischer had called for a ladder crew to help his AVE technician replace projector bulbs. Steve Wolverton also had a need to replace burned out ceiling bulbs.



Four hours and six men later the job was done. Please thank the volunteers who agreed to this task: Bruce Akins, Kent Hoffman, Dave Filkins, and Steve Wolverton manage the 20- foot heavy ladder. Other volunteers were Dave Tank and Dave Pemble. Glenda Schnirring recruits a team when tasks like this need doing.

GIVING AND EXPENSE	
2025	2024
May 2025 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$207,530.58	\$221,265.04
May 2025 YTD Capital Fund	
\$68,151.38	\$71,571.00
May 2025 YTD Expenses	
\$301,973.40	\$266,327.22
Net	
(\$26,291.44)	\$26,508.82
May 2025 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$40,944.90	\$38,880.59

Spring Grounds Activity

On May 17, a spring clean-up was done of the grounds with twenty-five members showing up. They cut the ornamental grasses down, pulled weeds out of many areas, removed three spreading junipers from the Pleasant Drive exit, and distributed mulch where it was most needed.

A huge thank you to everyone who responded to this important call for grounds beautification. As second call was put out for May 24, to complete the mulch spreading which was responded to by an additional nine volunteers.



Tami and Ashlyn Bernt with Owen helping on May 17 along with Katy Lindberg (not pictured)



Another twenty volunteers were on hand to do the spring clean-up on May 24. Tricia Bremer, Denise and Jim Jacobs, Dave Tank, Robyn Tank, Kent Hoffman and Steve Wolverton completed the spreading of mulch. Huge thanks to all.

Bruce Arndtson is the man who brings the trailers of mulch to the St. Philip's grounds. He's a key player in much of our grounds work.



Outdoor Worship on June 8

Roughly 150 members attended the 2025 outdoor worship service with The Double Down Daredevils providing spiritual selections to support the day's worship. The Baptismal Service for baby Molly made it extra special.



2025 Garage and Plant Sale Rings in Summer for Hundreds!

On a beautiful June 7 morning, a long line of visitors waited to enter St. Philip's 20th Garage & Plant sale. The hours of the sale were 8 am to 3 pm. One hundred-six member-volunteers staffed the 10-hour day, (including its clean-up).

Six days earlier on June 1, fixtures, shelving units, and large bins of swivel top hangers, were brought in from the garage, to stage the event. An average of fifty-four, St. Philip's members worked 12-hour days to create another beautiful sale.

Deborah Dreher, the sale's lead coordinator, had organized the day to roll out perfectly, and it did. Two planning meetings, ambitious recruiting and regular online correspondence to twelve department leads, along with expansive advertising and a radio interview, put in place by Glenda Schnirring, had all parties ready. Additional support from Scout Troop 23, Thrivent Financial's Action Team program, office manager Lista Klocow, and church treasurer Dolores Pemble, helped make the sale another great success.

Garage & Plant Sale proceeds totaled, \$18,879, which includes \$3,247 from the beautiful plant sale.

Overriding the revenue received, are the rich and meaningful connections the sale creates between St. Philip's members and the relationships St. Philip's builds by meeting and helping hundreds of shoppers who have come to the sale.

Abundant thanks to all department lead/ heads who created the attractive shopping sites with member donations. They are: Kitchen, Patty Todnem; Crafts, Carol Tobin; Puzzles, Glenda Schnirring and Kathy Stockman; Linens, Vicki Pavlish and Darla Kimmes; Sporting Goods, Mary Rock and Jeff Lucas, Children's, Arlene Wellemeyer and Lois Twedt; Adult Apparel, Sue Cruse; Jewelry, Marjorie Peterson and Bernita Weber; Home Décor, Jan Kochendorfer and Pat Schultz; Hardware and Electronics, Natalie and Chad Carda; Books, Sally Anderson; Furniture, Mary Charlson and Al Todnem; Plants, Geneva Weissner; and Boxes and Goods Removal, Ron Toppin, Bob Cruse, Steve Wolverton and Bill Pavlish.



Judy Werner and Robyn Tank categorizing every book donation



Natalie and Chad Carda have done Electronics and Hardware since the Garage Sale began in 2004



Vicki Pavlish got outfitted in the adult apparel department



A beautiful adult apparel department was coordinated by Sue Cruse and her team



Everything for children was carefully arranged to sell



Deborah Dreher, sale lead, opens the Sale Day with prayer



A big crowd waited to enter on a beautiful June 7 day



Mary Charlson doing her best explaining the furniture



A dad buying a chair for his daughter with our Scout helper and Rick Carlson helping fit it in



Tim Preston is being appreciated by a happy customer who just bought a picnic table and a futon

2025 July

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	Jun 30	1 3:30 PM Unity 5:00 PM Fellowship Ministry 6:00 PM Worship & Music Ministry	2 7:00 PM Revelation Zoom Bible Study	3 Office Closed 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days	4 4th of JULY Office Closed	5 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
6 9:30 AM Praise Worship 11:30 AM Faith Formation 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	7 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM CMT	8 3:30 PM Unity 5:30 PM Prayer Team 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry	9 7:00 PM Revelation Zoom Bible Study	10	11 2:00 PM Middles Day Camp	12 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM VBS Volunteers
13 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM VBS Volunteers 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	14 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Finance Ministry	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 3:30 PM Unity	16 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 7:00 PM Revelation Zoom Bible Study	17 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Do Days 7:30 PM Scout Committee	18	19 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
20 Raiselight Orders Due 9:30 AM Worship 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023 6:30 PM Campfire Conversations	21 10:30 AM Chapel @ Benedictine 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Council	22 10:00 AM Newsletter Assembly 3:30 PM Unity	23	24	25	26 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
27 9:30 AM Worship 2:07 PM St. Paul Saints Baseball Game 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023 7:00 PM High School Pizza & Paint	28 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Adult Spiritual Growth	29 3:30 PM Unity	30 10:00 AM Chapel @ Oak Ridge	31 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels	Aug 1	2
3	4	Notes				

Worship Leaders July 2025

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
Worship Coordinator	Connie Ball Mary Rock	Bruce & Brenda Arndtson	Dave & Dolores Pemble	Michelle Carlson Judy Hansen
Greeter	Karen Elliott	Jeannie Evans	Carolyn Schaar	Carlos, Micah, & Sophia Villavicencio
Usher	Gary & Marge Evenson	Al & Gail Carstensen	Michelle Carlson Darla Kimmes	Dave & Dolores Pemble
Lector		Cindy Toppin	Lance Twedt	Lori Best
Communion Bread	Pastor Geier Jennie Thomas	Pastor Geier Barb Jorenby	Pastor Geier Becky Raimann	Pastor Geier Lori Best
Communion Wine	Margaret Cox Deborah Dreher	Darlene Olson Glenda Schnirring	Lois Wroge Patty Todnem	Katy Lindberg Beth Fahlstrom
Offering Counters	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
Soundboard	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Music Leader/ Cantor	Meg Rein	Jan Kochendorfer	Unity	Jan Kochendorfer
Organist/Musicians	Meg Rein Praise Band	Noreen Swanson	Noreen Swanson Unity	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)

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)

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