

# 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

## August 2025

**Family Ice Cream Social and  
Craft Event**

Tuesday, August 5 at 6-7 pm

**Campfire Conversations**

Sunday, August 10 at 6:30 pm

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

Thursday, August 21 at 12-6 pm

**Pie at the LeDuc Event**

Sunday, August 31 at 6 pm

**God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Lutheran World Relief**

**Fall School Supply Drive**

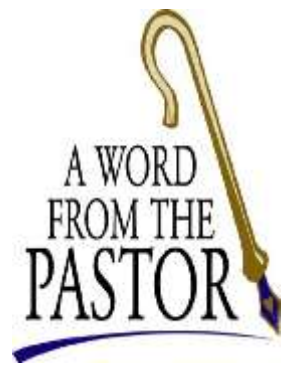
**Has Begun**

**Register Now for Sunday  
School and Confirmation**

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Luke 12:32-34

From the Gospel for August 10



Throughout my adult life I have struggled with obesity. The first time I decided to get serious about losing weight was over 30 years ago. It was then that I purchased a Nordic-Track exercise machine that mimics cross-country skiing. I figured that it would be the best way to lose weight and help me to stay healthy. I had watched the video that came with it and they all made it look so effortless and easy.

And it was! Right up to the point that I stepped on the contraption I was convinced that there was nothing to it. I am grateful that no one was there with a video camera so that I would not be subject to the inevitable comparison of a hippo on roller-skates. However, I did eventually figure out how to balance myself and perform the exercise in a manner that almost resembled what the trim young athletes were doing on the video.

Then came my next reality check. If this was such an "easy" exercise, why was I so exhausted so quickly? The answer was simple - - - endurance, (or rather a lack thereof.) I had to practice regularly every day, and eventually, I could exercise longer and longer. (Unfortunately, you are witnesses to my lack of discipline.)

Tough times in life are opportunities to exercise our faith and to develop patience and endurance. When we have shocks and losses in life, we can come to God in prayer. We can ask for what we

need: strength, courage, patience, and/or faith. Each time we survive a crisis, whether great or small, we have strengthened our faith "muscles." It is a little easier to trust and believe when the next crisis comes. We can endure longer, suffer less, and forget to worry. We know that God created the world, worked the miracles in the Bible, and proved to be faithful in the past. We believe that God will get us through whatever comes our way.

Our problem comes when we face a crisis and neglect to rely on God's strength and grace to sustain us. We start to flounder, (much like I did when I first got on the Nordic Track.) Endurance comes from discipline and time. The promise is that God's glorious power will grant us patience and endurance.

When we rely on God's power, we are strengthened. When we look to our spiritual inheritance we realize that our sins are forgiven, we are rescued from the power of darkness, we are redeemed! Through faith in that promise through Jesus Christ God gives us strength to endure anything and everything. May each of you be made strong in your faith journeys.

*Your Servant in Christ,*

*Pastor Geier*

---

*Thank You...*

We moved to Hastings in 1974. We joined SPLC in 1974. St. Philip's is a prayer warrior church. I KNOW! I EXPERIENCED IT RECENTLY!

Thank you for all of your prayers and concerns! Believe me, I felt them! Thank you for all your food – pie, cake, cookies, meals. I am blessed and happy to be a member of SPLC!

Please join us as a member!

Warm friendship and always love,  
*Gerri Lundby*

## – Among Our Own –

### *Congratulations...*

**James Henry Waage** (son of Christian and Abbie Waage) blessings on his baptism

*Congratulations to all those celebrating their wedding anniversary in August. Listed below are couples reaching a special anniversary i.e. 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, etc...*

**Jeff and Annette Hanson** on their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 5

**Adam and Andrea Barker** on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 5

**Alex and Cassie Raway** on their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary August 7

**Chuck and Barb Taffe** on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 9

**James and Savannah Koenig** on their 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 10

**John and Nancy Goldsmith** on their 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on August 12

**Paul and Karen Swanstrom** on their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 14

**Gary and Marge Evenson** on their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 16

**Farid and Diane Saed** on their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 16

**Jerome and Eunice Jilk** on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 16

**Earl and Kathy Stockman** on their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on August 22

**Derrick and Sammi Warnecke** on their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 22

**Steve and Carol Tobin** on their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 23

**Daniel and Jennie Thomas** on their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 23

**Kevin and Marcy Ferrie** on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 24

**Bob and Linda Brommer** on their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on August 29

**Thomas and Michelle Ling** on their 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 29

**James and Jeanne Cowee** on their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 31

**Art and Kathy Luedtke** on their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 31

## You are invited...

Please join us in celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary. We are hosting an open house at church on Saturday, August 9 between 2 and 5 pm. Looking forward to seeing you then.

*Paul and Karen Swanstrom*

---

## Sunday Scripture Readings

August 3	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21
August 10	Genesis 15:1-6 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40
August 17	Jeremiah 23:23-29 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56
August 24	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17
August 31	Proverbs 25:6-7 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14

---

## New Member Sunday

It becomes an especially meaningful Sunday when new members are received into St. Philips' congregation. Being a member results in being and feeling included in the many ministries and fellowship opportunities which evolve throughout the year.

Those desiring membership should contact Pastor Geier, the church office, or Glenda Schnirring at [glendaschnirring@gmail.com](mailto:glendaschnirring@gmail.com).

An informational session about St. Philip's history, operations and ministries will be scheduled with incoming members before September 14. A sponsor will also be selected for each new member. New members will be received at the 9:30 am worship service on September 14.



## **Campfire Conversation August 10 at 6:30 pm**

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.)



This conversation tackles our cultural love for sports, with the goals of taking a pass at social and cultural costs of consuming athletic entertainment, and shooting at idolatry, all hopefully without too much dribbling around. Touchdown!

Every pastor and youth director I know has experienced the prioritization of athletics over something we've scheduled. Whether the priority is youth or club sports or dance classes or televised or streamed events, or whatever, athletics and other extra-curricular activities come into full-contact with church life. It's probably not always bad, but probably not always good. So let's talk about it!



## **Online Giving**

St. Philip's has gone digital! We heard your feedback and have set up a way to share your donations/gifts through Simply Giving. To begin, create an account by scanning the code, complete the onboarding, and you're good to go! If you already have a Simply Giving account, scan the QR Code. Your Donations will be used to support St. Philip's ministries and community missions. Thank you!



## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Red Cross Blood drive at St. Philip's on Thursday, August 21 from 12-6 pm. Schedule a donation time at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). If you would like to help on a two-hour shift, please reach out to Katy Lindberg at 651-437-5031.

## **Pie at LeDuc Event**

St. Philip's will once again provide homemade pie or brownies with ice cream for the annual free outdoor concerts behind Historic LeDuc on August 31 at 6 pm. Music will be by the "Double Down Daredevils", a St. Philip's favorite. One needs to bring a chair. Also, if it rains, the concert is held at St. Luke's Episcopal.

This is a fundraiser for SPLC which helps it address its committed mission programs. There will be a sign up for pies, brownies and volunteer help on the kiosk soon. Donations for expenses like individual pie containers, and ice cream can be put in a marked envelope on the kiosk. Be ready to attend this fun event.

## **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).

Rehearsals will start Monday, September 8 at 6:15 pm for YouthPhil Ringers and 7 pm for JoyPhil Ringers.

## **Prayer Request**

Prayers for charter member, Eileen Helmstetter, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. If you would like to reach out to her the mailing address is P.O. Box 812, 110 1st Avenue NE, New London, MN 56273.

## Youth Ministries Update

### 2025-2026 Confirmation Class

It's hard to believe that we are already planning for the upcoming school year! If you have a student going into 6th-8th grade(s), consider signing them up for confirmation. We meet every week throughout the year on Wednesday evenings. Class runs from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm, but come early for some optional hang-out time starting at 6 pm!



### Youth Group Emergency Contact Information



If you have a student participating in any middle or high school youth events, kindly take a moment to complete this brief form. It will help us to keep all emergency contact and health information in one location. If your student is also in Confirmation and you have registered them

through the QR code above, you **do not** need to complete this form.

### 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 into using it. For those who are not interested in downloading 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. Scan the QR code to join our group today!



## High School Events

The High Schoolers' first group event, Pizza and Paint, is scheduled for July 27 at 7-9 pm. Look for a special update in the September Newsletter! Lydia is continuing to meet with students either by themselves or in small groups for Coffee Chats to discuss what they want to see in the Youth Program in the future.



## Social Media

If you want to see pictures in real time, consider following us on social media! You can find us on Facebook at **SPLC Youth** or Instagram at **spcl.youth**.





## Middle School Events

The Middle Schoolers have now enjoyed two events this summer. At the end of June, we had a bonfire, played Gaga Ball, tetherball, Cornhole, and threw axes! It was a hot night, but we had a lot of fun!



Our July event was one for the books! We played with water balloons, tie-dyed bandanas, had a tug of war challenge, painted rocks, and helped Ms. Becky with VBS setup. Thank you to Jen Klos and Dakota Bauer for volunteering!





## Family Ice Cream Social Event

We are planning a family ice cream social event for Tuesday, August 5 from 6-7 pm. Come join us for a fun craft that has to do with ice cream and God. What could be sweeter? We will also be having ice cream sundaes and some fellowship time. Please RSVP to Becky Kaphing at [beckyk@splchastings.org](mailto:beckyk@splchastings.org) by August 3 so we can be sure to have enough ice cream.

## Sunday School Registration

Summer is flying by and it is already time to think about fall programming. Registration forms for Sunday school can be found on the website or on the information board in the old narthex area. Do you know anyone who loves kids and Jesus can volunteer to help in our Sunday school classes? Be sure to look for our set up in the narthex for information on how you can join this fun ministry team. No experience is needed.

## Save the Date for Rally Day!

Sunday, September 7 is Rally Day. The church will all be a buzz as we celebrate the kick off our programming year. We will have blessing of the backpacks, snacks, inflatables and more. Hope to see you there.

## Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship Awarded

We congratulate Julia Ronning as the winner of the 2025 Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship. She has received the \$2,000 award to go towards her studies at Luther College.



The Fischer family has also awarded additional \$250 scholarships to Kendal Jenkins and Lauren Jenkins. All applicants showed that service to God and community are alive and well at St. Philip's. Taking those gifts out into the world away from our church is a gift worth treasuring.

## Lutheran World Relief Fall School Supply Drive



It may not feel like school is any time soon, but by the time this 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.

As school supplies come out, 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 physical 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

As one drives by St. Philip's on 15th Street, it's easy to notice its row of beautiful and abundant hydrangeas. My take on this abundance sees it symbolizing this year's stewardship theme, "Abiding in God's Abundance". The theme was taken from John 10:10b, "I came that they may have life abundantly".



Reflecting on the first half of 2025, I have witnessed abundance in our members who step up and say "yes" when asked to do many favors within the church's operations and mission.

In May, when a grounds clean-up was needed more than 25 members showed up to weed, plant and mulch, and a week later finished the job with another three hours of labor. When sanctuary ceiling bulbs and projectors needed replacing seven members stood ready to give four to six hours of their time.

Pastor Geier recently reminded us that when Lutheran Social Service had to ask congregations to help them with summer housing costs for refugees, due to a federal funding freeze St. Philip's members responded with \$11,650.

At the time of this writing St. Philip's has seventy-eight children experiencing the lessons of God's abundance with dozens of VBS volunteer staff leaders giving each child their full attention.

We will soon be gathering school supplies for school kits which will be given to children around the world with tools to help them learn.

I believe that in the hearts of you volunteers lie the awareness of your own God-given abundance, be it in skills, time, energy, or means. It is all so appreciated and the effects of all that is accomplished is immeasurable.

*Glenda Schnirring*  
Stewardship Ministry Team Chair

## Hastings 5th Annual Overdose and Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Day

Join us for an evening of remembrance, education, and action as we come together as a community to raise awareness about the deadly impact of fentanyl and honor the lives lost to overdose and poisoning. The event is on August 21, at the Hastings Public House, 2015 Westview Drive, Hastings. A Resource Fair begins at 6:00 pm. Guest Speakers and Tributes are at 7:00 pm.

Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18–45. Often hidden in pills and other substances, this deadly synthetic opioid has taken too many lives—including sons, daughters, siblings, and friends who never intended to use it. This event is a powerful reminder that awareness saves lives, and our stories can spark change.

Presented and organized by the Devin J. Norring Foundation in collaboration with United Way of Hastings & Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Note: if you plan to have dinner at Hastings Public House, reservations are required.

Additional information can be obtained from:  
Bridgette Norring  
Founder, Devin J. Norring Foundation  
651-354-2794, [dnfhelp.org](mailto:dnfhelp.org)

---

## Welcome Back Julia!

Pictured on the right is Julia Ronning, who recently returned from a one-year term in Norway, where she studied Norwegian history, culture, and life practices. Julia will soon begin her studies at Luther College. Welcoming her back are Cindy Toppin and Robyn Tank.





**Among Our Members:  
Linnea Ronning is serving  
as a summer intern at  
the St. Paul Area Synod!**



The synod's young adult interns visited the State Capitol during their cohort gathering last week as an opportunity for them to reflect on the intersection of faith, values and politics. They enjoyed a guided tour that covered the building's architecture, history and art. A fun highlight was stepping out by the Quadriga (golden horses) to catch a great view of the area. A more somber and moving part of the visit was spending a few minutes at the memorial for Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark.

The interns also met with Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten, who talked about her path to elected leadership and her day-to-day work life. As we concluded our visit, we asked the Senator what message she wants young leaders in the state to hear. "We need you," she said, encouraging them to find a way to be active in their own communities. "Get involved. Don't wait your turn. Just do it!" Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer from the synod staff organized and accompanied the interns for the outing.

Linnea Ronning is serving our synod at Shobi's Table, a "pay as you can" food truck ministry that serves fresh, from-scratch, delicious and nutritious lunch to anyone and everyone. Ask her about her experience the next time you see her in worship!

**WELCA Goes On The Road**

On June 20, eighteen St. Philip's WELCA members and friends, did its June field trip to the Faribault Woolen Mills. The well-guided tour was impressive and enjoyed.



*Karen Elliot is holding a sample of raw wool before the carding begins*

*Huge spools of spun yarn before a blanket's assembly*



*Enjoying the knowledge of a well prepared guide*



# VBS 2025



St. Philip's Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School ran July 14-17 with a total of seventy-eight children joining us! It was a great week of learning to trust God even in the hard times. In addition to opening and closing time the children enjoyed fun games, interactive bible story time, exciting crafts, and yummy snacks that all went along with the daily bible story. The children had so much fun and learned so much. The bible verse for VBS was "Whenever I'm afraid I put my trust in you" Psalm 56:3.

This was a wonderful verse for both our students and our volunteers to focus on over the week! Thank you to the almost forty volunteers. This year we had fifteen middle school helpers, five high schoolers, and many adults. It truly was a blessing and a wonderful outreach ministry for St. Philip's.

On Sunday, July 20 the congregation was treated to students and helpers from VBS share what they learned by helping with the sermon and sharing some of their songs.









## ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor

[pastorgeier@splchastings.org](mailto:pastorgeier@splchastings.org)

Noreen Swanson, Organist

[swansonhastings@centurylink.net](mailto:swansonhastings@centurylink.net)

LuAnn Roiger, Handbell Choir Director

[lroiger58@gmail.com](mailto:lroiger58@gmail.com)

Meg Rein, Director of Contemporary Worship

[meganr@splchastings.org](mailto:meganr@splchastings.org)

John Diischer, Sound Board Technician

[johnd@splchastings.org](mailto:johnd@splchastings.org)

Becky Kaphing, Director of Children's Ministries

[beckyk@splchastings.org](mailto:beckyk@splchastings.org)

Lydia Cummings, Director of Youth Ministries

[lydiac@splchastings.org](mailto:lydiac@splchastings.org)

Lista Klocow, Office Manager

[listak@splchastings.org](mailto:listak@splchastings.org)

Becky Kaphing, Preschool Co-Director

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

Lorelei Rein, Preschool Co-Director

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

Rachel Moritz, Assistant Teacher

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher

[preschool@splchastings.org](mailto:preschool@splchastings.org)

## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541 [www.splchastings.org](http://www.splchastings.org)

### Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

### Sunday Worship Service:

In Person and Livestream Worship at 9:30 am

(Livestream link on [www.splchastings.org](http://www.splchastings.org),

YouTube and Facebook)



affix label here

TIME DATED MATERIAL

\*\*Return Service Requested

St. Philip's Lutheran Church  
1401 West 15th Street  
Hastings, MN 55033

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