

# 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



## September 2025 Events

**Preschool Classes Begin**  
September 2 and 3

**Grief Support**  
Wednesday, September 3 at 6 pm

**Confirmation Orientation**  
Wednesday, September 3  
at 6:45 pm

**Opening the Bible Class**  
Saturday, September 6  
9:30-11:30 am

**Rally Day**  
Sunday, September 7

**Circle Meeting/Bible Study**  
Thursday, September 11 at 9:30 am

**Middle School Lock-In**  
Saturday, September 13 at 7:00 pm

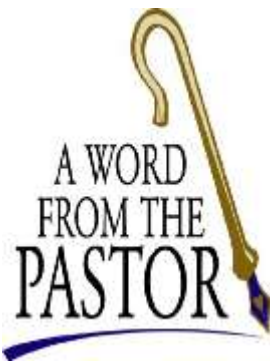
**Sunday School and Adult Forum  
Begin**  
Sunday, September 14 at 10:40 am

**High School Laser Tag**  
Sunday, September 14 at 8:00 pm

**500 Card Club Begins**  
Saturday, September 20 at 6:30 pm

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

1 Timothy 6:6-10  
From the Epistle lesson for September 28



"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. . ." This verse from First Timothy is one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. Nine times out of ten it seems that when someone means to quote this verse they will instead say that "Money is the root of all evil." Money is not inherently evil. Neither is it inherently good. Money is something that we ascribe value to because in our society it can be exchanged for goods or services that we need or want.

The problem comes when we start thinking of money and possessions as something we own rather than gifts we have been entrusted with. "God Owns It All" is the chapter heading in a book by a Christian author who presents this statement as the foundation for money management and giving. Psalm 24:1 proclaims that "The earth is the Lord's". Scripture tells us in Haggai 2:8 that God even owns the silver and gold in all the mines.

Now God allows us to use what rightfully belongs to God, but everything still belongs to God! We are managers and stewards of what God has blessed us with and entrusted to us. Someday, when we stand before the throne, we will have to give an account of what kind of job we have done.

That is one reason scripture warns us of the "eagerness to be rich." In seeking wealth or asserting ownership as a means of achieving contentment, we

cannot help but wander away from the faith. God has blessed us and entrusted us with more than we could ever hope to earn or deserve. That is why every spending decision becomes a spiritual decision.

When I say that God has blessed us, it might be tempting to think, "I'm doing alright, but it's not like I am wealthy like those 1%ers!" The next time you hear "top 1%" remember, it's not just billionaires flying private jets. It could be you. According to the World Inequality Lab and Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report, to be in the top 1% of income earners globally in 2025, you only need to make \$60,000 to \$70,000 USD per year (net income after tax).

While it sounds unbelievable, here's why: The median global income is estimated at \$10,000–\$15,000/year according to the World Bank. Furthermore, the United Nations Development Report states that 85% of the world's population lives on less than \$20,000 annually.

That makes me part of the global 1% club and I am thinking it makes many or most of you part of the wealthiest 1% on the planet as well. Being so comparatively rich should force us to reflect on our relationship with money and guard against the "senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction." Are we using our wealth and sharing our blessings to glorify God and care for our neighbors in need?

In a former parish I was once asked, "Pastor, isn't it kind of self-serving for you to talk about giving money to the church since part of that money is used for your paycheck?" Well it is self-serving but not for that reason. It is self-serving because when the day comes that I am standing before Jesus, I don't want him to ask me, "Why didn't you tell the people I called you to serve that what they do with their blessings is a reflection of their priorities and their faith?"

It is our faith in Christ that provides true contentment. We pray for daily bread. Everything else is pure blessing. Once we are content with what we have and who we are as children of God, our eyes are opened to the wonders of God's grace. We are then able to rejoice and live our lives as God would have us do. Thanks be to God!

*Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Geier*



## Preschool Chatter

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! We are excited to be starting a new school year once again. Teachers have been busy preparing for our students to once again fill the halls with excitement on September 2 and 3.

We are blessed to be starting off this school year with our same staff. Miss Lorelei and Miss Rachel will be teaching our older group while Miss Becky and Miss Kari will have the younger group. Our program runs from 9 am-noon either Monday/Wednesday/Friday, Tuesday/Thursday or Monday through Friday. Unfortunately, due to factors out of our control our enrollment is very low this year. We do have all sessions available if you know anyone still looking for preschool please share our information.

We are very grateful for the support of St. Philip's congregation for their continued support through prayers, RaiseRight support, and other donations. We feel blessed for the students we do have and are excited to watch them learn and grow socially, academically and faithfully.

We as St. Philip's preschool staff would like to wish all the students and teachers from our congregation and community a very blessed school year!

*Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein*  
Preschool Co-Directors

### Sunday Scripture Readings

September 7	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33
September 14	Exodus 32:7-14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10
September 21	Amos 8:4-7 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
September 28	Amos 6:1a, 5-7 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

## Thank You...

**I want to thank you all** for the many prayers for my sister Linda. Since her fall in February her healing has been slow and steady. and while healing is still needed, she is doing much better. She is blessed with a church family much like ours, they have been there to support her when her family has not been able to. We blessed and God is faithful.

*Judy Werner*

**Heartful thanks** to those of you who were able to come to our anniversary celebration. And to those of you who sent cards. We are truly blessed to be part of this caring St. Philip's family.

*Paul and Karen Swanstrom*

**Big thanks** go to Bruce Arndtson who cut up this fallen birch after July's windstorm. Thanks also go to Dan Strehlow and Dave Tank who finished the job by hauling the wood and brush away the following day.



More thanks, to Bruce Arndtson, who trimmed up the overgrown River Birch tree and heavy hydrangeas nearly covering the walkways going out the church's east door. Bruce also took care of tree limbs beginning to encroach on the church shingles. Preschool is about to begin, and the children need a safe way to get to their playground.

### An Invitation to Sing

Choir will be starting this fall, singing about once a month throughout the school year. Rehearsals take place the Tuesday prior to the performance from 7-8 pm. All adults and students in grades 7-12 are invited to join. The first opportunity will be October 12, with rehearsal on Tuesday, October 7 at 7 pm. Contact Becky Raimann for information: 651-437-1377.

## – Among Our Own –

### *Sympathies to...*

**Jim and Denise Jacobs** as they mourn the death of their sister-in-law Tracy Jacobs

### *Congratulations...*

**Kevin Ekstrom and Erica Swenson**, blessings on their August 16 marriage

*Congratulations to all those celebrating their wedding anniversary in September. 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., 50+...*

**Edward and Jonlee Brown** on their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 4

**Ken and Danielle Langenfeld** on their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 9

**Jay and Becky Raimann** on their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on September 15

**Andrew and Alisa Hoffman** on their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 20

**Tim and Emily Preston** on their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 22

**Kent and Pam Hoffman** on their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary on September 27

## Grief Support

The next grief support meeting will be Wednesday, September 3 at 6 pm in the Conference Room (Pastor's old office). Let's talk about what it was like coping with grief this summer. All who are grieving are welcome to come share your thoughts and hear how others are doing as well.

<b>GIVING AND EXPENSE</b>	
<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
July 2025 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$314,905.44	\$405,462.11
July 2025 YTD Capital Fund	
\$102,793.54	\$96,420.50
July 2025 YTD Expenses	
\$396,613.99	\$156,248.36
Net	
\$21,084.99	\$345,634.25
July 2025 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$8,186.18	\$7,799.30

## Circle Meeting/Bible Study

The date for the September Circle Meeting/Bible Study is September 11. We will continue to meet in the "Old Youth Room" the second Thursday of the months September through May. It starts at 9:30 am with coffee and a short business meeting. The study follows and lasts around an hour ending at 11:00 - 11:30 am. We will continue to use the study found in the Gather Magazine. Extra copies can be found in the WELCA mailbox at church.

The fall Bible Study is "Money, Stewardship, and Generosity" by the Reverend Christa Von Zychlin:

September: Money - What do we treasure?

October: Stewardship - How do we tend our treasure?

November: Generosity - A wideness in God's mercy.

Information about subscribing to the Gather Magazine can be found online at [www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org).

All are welcome! Questions? Contact Susan Cruse.

**Save the Date** - 2025-2026 Gather Bible Study Preview by Pastor Carrie Stiles. Saturday, September 20 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church - North St. Paul from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm followed by lunch. Registrations are due September 17.

## Adult Forum

Sunday Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities for September...

September 7 - Rally Sunday. Help us pack Lutheran World Relief School Kits in the narthex after worship!

September 14 and 21 - The Seven Churches of Revelation 1 and 2. Lisa Bergert, our fellow member and MDiv (Master of Divinity) student at Luther Seminary, took a trip to Turkey with the Seminary this spring. They focused on the seven communities in western Asia Minor mentioned in Revelation chapters 1 and 2, but she also had many other enlightening experiences there. Please join us for her slides and discussion of this interesting area.

September 28 - Avoiding Scams. Officer Whitney Rinowski from the Hastings Police Department will lead us in a discussion about avoiding internet and phone scams and fraud.



St. Philip's has an electronic subscription to *The Wire Word* where a weekly lesson is sent to Lista Klocow on Thursdays. Each weekly installment gives you the choice of two different Bible study lessons for you to think, reflect, and discuss. Each lesson is based on the foundations of Christian faith and includes Bible verses, biblical commentary, discussion questions, reference materials that relate to a current topic in the news that week. Typical topics include:

- Affordable Homes Could Be Built on Church-Owned Land
- Food Shortages Impacting Thousands in Gaza
- Caregiver Shortage and Rising Costs
- Some Gen Zers Declining Church Attendance
- IRS Says Churches Can Endorse Political Candidates

You can spend as much or little time as you wish thinking about these events. Some topics have been presented and discussed on Sunday mornings at our Adult Forum. If you are interested in receiving these weekly lessons, please forward your email address to Lista at [listak@splchastings.org](mailto:listak@splchastings.org) and Lista will include your email address in a weekly mailing to receive the weekly lessons on most Thursday afternoons. If you find that this program is not for you, you can drop at any time. St. Philip's has an annual subscription, thus no cost to you.

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## Philadazzle 2025

It's that time of year when we think about Philadazzle, our St. Philip's beginning of Advent Evening. This is our fourth annual event on Sunday, November 30. We'd love to have your input of what you would like to see included this year in the evening of food, fellowship and fun. We already have entertainment booked! There will be a sign up sheet on kiosk for you to join us in the planning. First meeting is Tuesday, September 16 at 5:00 pm.

We would love to have additional people and new ideas to add to the fun evening!

Ticket information and more details will be out in October.

Questions can be directed to Fellowship Chair, Camille Nelson

## God's Work. Our Hands.

On Sunday, September 7, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands." This day continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. St. Philip's will celebrate this day by packing Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

Our St. Philip's family serves regularly in many ways throughout the year, as they share their love and resources with the local and greater world communities. These are some of the programs and organizations our family has supported this year: Congregational tithe offerings to Hastings Family Service, Rise Up Recovery, ELCA Hurricane Relief, and Lutheran Social Service for Youth Homelessness; WELCA donations to Global Relief, Tuition for Tanzanian nursing student, United Way Food 4 Kids, and Lutheran World Relief Quilts around the world; Hastings Family Service Community Ministry Food Rescue, Meals on Wheels, Hastings Family Service holiday meal supplies for needy families, Annual SPLC garage sale, Samaritan's Purse Christmas boxes for children, Annual Hastings fall community park clean-up, Red Cross Blood Drive, Feed My Starving Children, LeDuc pie-in-the-park benefit for Lutheran Social Service, Hastings Downtown Halloween Family Fun night, LSS refugee housing costs donation, VBS offering to the Alex's Lemonade Stand Children's Cancer Research, and Fishbowl offerings from the youth to Heifer International for the purchase of a sheep and chickens.

St. Philip's is so blessed to have many who participate in service projects. There are likely even more opportunities members have taken to reach out beyond our church doors.

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## Shoebox Season

Take advantage of the school supply sales and summer clearances to purchase greatly needed school supplies and other gifts for your shoeboxes! National Collection week this year is November 17 - 24. Red and green shoe boxes will be available in late October or early November. Once again we have the privilege to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ with thousands of boys and girls around the world! If you have any questions, you can visit [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ) or talk with Emily Preston or Robyn Tank.



## Stewardship Emphasis About to Begin

Every day of our lives is one of thanksgiving, and from it we seek to respond to the world by giving of our time, our skills, and our resources. Your Stewardship Ministry Team met in mid-August and selected a theme it believes will fill our hearts and warm our responses.

The theme is "Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Faith". It from Colossians and will focus on the key words, gratitude and faith.

Stewardship Sunday (or Pledge Sunday) will be November 9, followed by a complimentary Pancake/Sausage breakfast.

The first temple talk will begin at the end of September, followed by one in both October and November.

Pray for the Spirit to fill the St. Philip's congregation with courage and a will to walk with one another in hardship and happiness, as it supports the church's needs and ministries.

In His Name, the Stewardship Ministry Team, Deborah Dreher, Krystel Ebel, Jeannie Evans, Gerri Lundby, Al Todnem, Sam Willis, and Glenda Schnirring, chair.

## Downtown Halloween Event Sunday, October 26

We plan to be part of the Downtown Family Fun event leading up to Halloween. Put the date on your calendars to help out as volunteers, provide donations for supplies, and attend the community building and family fun event. Watch the kiosk for sign-ups coming soon.

## 500 Card Club

Join the 500 Card Club which meets on the third Saturday of the month (September-May, excluding December) at 6:30 pm. First night is Saturday, September 201 at Denny and Tricia Kohn's home. Couples and singles are welcome. Questions? call Tricia Kohn. Sign up on the kiosk.



## Shobi's Table

In August we read about Linnea Ronning's internship with Shobi's Table, a mobile food truck which visits various St. Paul locations bringing food to those who need food support. The Todnems and Glenda Schnirring visited a location August 12.



*Linnea Ronning works the truck-kitchen taking orders and packaging the day's menu*



*A family getting their beverages as they wait for their meals to be dished up*

## Faith Statements Begin

On August 3, Payton Perseke was the first Confirmation student to deliver his Faith Statement at worship. Payton did a great job of describing a legacy of Perseke ties to St. Philip's, beginning with his grandparents, Larry and Barb Perseke, joining St. Philip's during the time of Pastor Thompson. Baptisms and weddings with pastors through the years left no doubt that St. Philip's is woven into the Perseke family's faith life. Mentor Tim Preston was mentioned as one who had given Payton strong support for two years.



## Bringing Children to Worship Is a Gift to the Congregation

It's a big effort to get children up, fed and dressed for a 9:30 am worship service. How thankful we are that many St. Philip's young families do just that. With a large number of members living without children, it becomes very special to see and learn the names of as many children as possible. From the day of their Baptism, the congregation vowed their prayer life to each child. Children brought to worship regularly become acquainted with the setting and eventually learn the routine of a worship hour. Participating in the children's sermon and partaking in the offering are meant to imprint the love of Jesus on their lives. Seeing children in worship enriches the worship experience for many. Please continue to bring them.



*Laura Zabel found it necessary to bring her granddaughter into the narthex and into a more relaxed setting while the service concluded.*

## A Successful Youth Program Calls for Adult Participation

During August a weekly invitation to any and all adults to find a youth event(s) where they can come and show their support of the young people's lives and activities. Pictured is Lydia Cummings describing to Steve Wolverton some events which may be enjoyable to him. Let's all consider how we can help give additional depth to Lydia's well planned array of youth activities.



## Ice Cream Social

On August 5 children's and family ministry event had an ice cream social! We talked about Psalm 34:8 "Taste and see that the Lord is good". We made ice cream sundae or cone crafts and listed how God has blessed us on each scoop of ice cream. We of course also enjoyed making our own sundaes to eat while enjoying some fellowship time with other families. Thank you to everyone who joined us!





## Attention Parents of Second and Third Grade Students

In the past we have done third grade bibles. We are now changing that to elementary age bibles and would like to include our second graders as well because second-fourth grade share a Sunday school class and should all have bibles. On Saturday, September 6 from 9:30-11:30 am we would like to invite you and your child to Opening the Bible class where we learn how to find scriptures in the bible and how to read them. During our time together, we will also go over our confirmation program. We look forward to learning and growing together. If you can come to any or all of the class that day, it would be great, however the class is not required to receive a bible. The class is just one way we like to continue to support our children's faith journey.



Then on Rally Day, Sunday, September 7 at the 9:30 am service children will be presented with their Bibles. Please let Pastor or Becky Kaphing know if you plan on attending so we can be prepared with enough bibles and snacks. Also, if you have a fourth grader who has not yet received their bible please let us know.

We would like to thank WELCA for their support in purchasing the special bibles for not only our elementary students but also our preschoolers.

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## Sunday School Starts September 14

We are excitedly preparing for our 2025/2026 Sunday school year. Children in preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade can sign up for Sunday school classes that run from 10:40-11:30 am. Please see the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall for registration forms. You will also find the Sunday school schedule for the year, as well as children's ministry events that are planned for now through December.

I would also like to extend an invitation to any and ALL members to sign up to be a Sunday school helper. We are blessed to have some amazing core teachers but having other people come in and help in these classes is so important. It is important for our children to get to know other caring people in our congregation. We are looking for middle and high schoolers as well as any other adults. Please prayerfully consider helping even for a week or two to see what it's all about. We also will need some substitute teachers for this year.

## Rally Day is September 7

Rally Day has events and activities for people of all ages! Our children's ministry has many things planned including handing out elementary and preschool bibles during service, Blessing of the Backpacks during children's sermon, games, bounce houses, and snacks after service. We hope to see you all there!

Also, if anyone is available to help with setting up bounce house and games before service or tear down after please let Becky know. Many hands make light work.

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## Youth Room Open House

During Rally Day festivities on September 7, the Youth Room will be set up for all to come and see how it has transformed from the Old Sanctuary into our new space for Youth.

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## 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 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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!




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## 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 below to join our group today!



**Wednesday,  
September 3  
at 6:45 pm**

Join us on Wednesday, September 3 when we start our 2025-2026 confirmation with an orientation meeting that will include an opportunity to sign-up for acolyting along with some time to practice "playing with fire" and checking out our new Youth Room!

On September 10 our regular class will meet from 6:45-7:45 pm. We are again going to combine all grades and team teach our curriculum. This year we will be focusing on our Lutheran heritage, the Apostles' Creed section of Martin Luther's Small Catechism and a wide variety of other topics to help us grow in our faith journey.

Also, be sure to check out Lydia Cummings article about Early Bird time in the Youth Room every Wednesday before confirmation for games, and hanging out with friends!

## Confirmation Early Birds

On Wednesday evenings when Confirmation class is scheduled, students are invited to come early at 6:00 to hang out, play games, & connect before class gets started. This is not a requirement of confirmation, but an opportunity to socialize. Light snacks will be provided; students are encouraged to bring their beverages. We will meet in the Youth Room.

## Youth Room Update

It is an understatement to say that the kids are excited to have a finished and dedicated space! A lot of hard work from the kids, volunteers, and staff went into making the Youth Room a welcoming and fun place to hang out. Not to mention the generous donations of furniture from several families in our congregation.

Starting in September, the Youth Room will be used as a Sunday School space for students in grades 6 through 12 during the 10:30 am learning hour. On Wednesday evenings, Confirmation Early Birds will use the room from 6:00-6:45 pm before going to class. There will be times when our younger students and their families will be invited to use the room by Becky for special children and family events.

In the past, the Youth Room has been an empty space that many of the kids have gone to hang out and play after worship, choir practice, etc. Going forward, we would like to use the following guidelines to keep everyone safe.

1. You must be in middle or high school to use this room without an adult. If you are younger than 5th grade, you must be accompanied by an adult.
2. Leave this room how you found it. Throw away any garbage. Put away games, paddles, balls, etc. Please do not move the furniture.
3. No throwing balls inside. If you want to play catch, please go outside.
4. Turn the lights off when you are finished.

## 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 splc.youth.



Looking Ahead...

**Confirmation  
Sunday is  
October 26**

## Middle School Events

The Middle School students faced off in a ping-pong tournament in August! When they were not at the net, they were snacking and making cards of encouragement for local teachers as they prepare to go back to school. This event would not have been possible without the help of Jordan Klos, LuAnn Roiger, and Kathy Luedtke!

The next Middle School event is scheduled for September 13 from 7:00-10:00 pm. We still need 5-6 volunteers to help make this a successful lock-in! If you are available, reach out to Lydia at [lydiac@splchastings.org](mailto:lydiac@splchastings.org).





## HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

In July, the High School group gave the Youth Room windows a makeover! A huge thank you to Dave Tank and Kathy Luedtke for their help and guidance on this project. In August, this group met again for an evening of crafting. They made friendship bracelets, bead pets, and paracord bracelets. In addition, they made keychains for the blessing of the backpacks for Rally Day! A big thank you to Bernita Weber and Carlos Villavicencio for volunteering their time and crafting expertise for this event!

The next High School event is Laser Tag Night Sunday, September 14 from 8-10 pm. You don't want to miss this. Bring a friend!



## 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](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)

### Sunday Education Hour:

Adult Forum at 10:40 am

Sunday School at 10:40 am

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