

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

October 2025

October Events

Sunday School
Sundays at 10:40 am

Adult Forum
Sundays at 10:40 am

Middle School Fun Event
Sunday, October 12 at 2 pm

Lefse Making
Thursday, October 16 at 9 am

Feed My Starving Children
Wednesday, October 22
at 7 pm

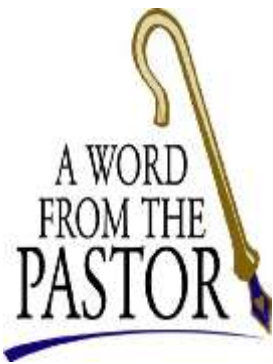
Downtown Halloween
Family Event
Sunday, October 26 at 2-5 pm

Reformation and Confirmation
Sunday
Sunday, October 26 at 9:30 am

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:5-7

From the Epistle lesson for October 5



As the apostle begins his letter to his friend and colleague Timothy in our second lesson for October 3, I am keenly aware of how he makes sure that Timothy is reminded how his faith came to him. First his grandmother Lois and then to his mother Eunice and then to him. I think that this is an excellent reminder for all of us.

It reminds us to be grateful to the ones who have nurtured us on our faith journeys, and it reminds us that there are undoubtedly others who God wants to touch through our lives and witness.

For this reason Paul exhorts Timothy to “rekindle the gift of God that is within you.” What a fantastic image! Rekindling the gift of God that is within us. Is that not why we gather each Sunday (or Wednesday) around Word and sacrament? Is that not why we seek to continue to grow in faith throughout our lives? And the very fact that he uses the word “rekindle” indicates that everyone’s faith, Paul’s, Timothy’s, mine and yours, needs to be renewed and revived on a regular basis. The word “rekindle” means to “set a fire burning again.” That is what we are about!

Our faith makes a difference, not only in our own lives, but also in the lives of others. False humility and a lack of courage can lead us to try to keep our faith in Jesus hidden from others. However, Scripture proclaims that “God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.” There is power in our witness and there is power in our love and there is power in our self-discipline. (We are, after all, disciples!)

In September we started our Sunday School and confirmation ministries. Parents and grandparents and teachers will continue to rekindle their faith of our

children. Next month two of our own will affirm the promises of their baptisms. At that service I will lay my hands on their heads and pray, “Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his faith, guide his life, empower him in his serving, give him patience in suffering, and bring him to everlasting life.” If that is not rekindling, I don’t know what is.

However, it is not just for those who are up front. It is for all of us. Each and every day we remember our baptisms and pray that God would confirm our faith, guide our lives, empower us in our serving, give us patience in suffering and bring us to everlasting life. God does these things not because of who we are but because of who God is.

Later in this same passage the apostle speaks of our relying on the power of God “who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace.” It is God who used others to nurture your faith, and it is God who will use each of you to nurture the faith of others! Let us each give thanks for those who came before us and shared Jesus with us and let us give thanks for those whom our Lord will touch through our lives of service and witness.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier

– Among Our Own –

Sympathies to...

Sue Schwarting and family as they mourn the death of her sister, Diane Humphrey

Congratulations...

Congratulations to all those celebrating their wedding anniversary in October. Listed below are couples reaching a special anniversary i.e. 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, etc., 50+...

Jerry and Judy Liffrog on their 52nd wedding anniversary on October 6

Andy and Katy Lindberg on their 25th wedding anniversary on October 6

Lee and Heide Williams on their 35th wedding anniversary on October 13

Carlos and Lacey Villavicencio on their 25th wedding anniversary on October 14

Doug and Danna Elling Schultz on their 40th wedding anniversary on October 19

Preschool Chatter

Just like that we are Back! What a busy first few weeks we have had getting back into the swing of things. So far this year we are teaching thirty-three students. Seven of our children come five days a week, which means we have forty of our preschool spots filled. These numbers are a little less than last year (forty-three spots filled last year). We feel very blessed with the students we are able to have. We are excited to have the opportunity to teach the students we have about all kinds of cognitive and social/emotional skills – and, of course, the love of Jesus!

September themes include Welcome to school, all about me, friends, and pets. We enjoyed learning some new songs, making new friends, art time, playground time to enjoy the fall weather, and a visit from the Rio Gran dog agility show for pets week. This month we also had our first chapel times with Pastor Geier. The children enjoyed blessing of the backpacks at our first chapel, hearing about the creation story at our second chapel and (of course) singing Jesus Loves Me.

Some of our children were so excited to be coming to school while others were a little nervous at first. Everyone is starting to adjust to being part of a classroom community and what that means.

We hope that all members of St. Philip's congregation young and old are making a smooth transition into the new season and whatever that may look like for you and your family. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for our preschool program!

Blessings,

Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors

Sunday Scripture Readings

October 5	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10
October 12	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19
October 19	Genesis 32:22-31 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8
October 26	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36

Trunk or Treat

We are going to be holding our annual trunk or treat event this year on Saturday, November 1 from 3:30-5:00 pm in the church parking lot. We invite everyone from the congregation and the preschool families to join in the fun. We once again will be looking for families to set up cars and hand out treats. We also collect items to pack bags for Food4Kids. Food4Kids is program that sends meals home with kids whose families need a little help with food. So we collect single serve breakfast and lunch items that can go into a Ziplock bag and deliver to the schools. The 6-12 grade Sunday school will be packing these on Sunday. Sign-up sheet is posted on the Children Ministry bulletin board or email Becky Kaphing at beckyk@splchastings.org.



Downtown Halloween Family Event

St. Philip's will again participate in the Downtown Halloween Family Event, held on Sunday, October 26 from 2-5 pm. We have been part of this outreach beyond our church walls for many years. This is a great time for families to be involved in community ministry outreach, confirmation students, high school, and families together.



Watch the kiosk to sign-up to supply hot cocoa mix and marshmallows. Donations can be dropped off by office until October 22.

GIVING AND EXPENSE

2025	2024
August 2025 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$338,665.58	\$511,328.64
August 2025 YTD Capital Fund	
\$115,532.33	\$107,770.50
August 2025 YTD Expenses	
\$436,510.38	\$396,533.67
Net	
\$17,687.53	\$222,565.47
August 2025 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$65,674.43	\$62,461.89

Adult Forum

Please join us after worship on Sunday mornings for October and early November in the North Room for a series of informative sessions on other faith traditions in Minnesota, with an emphasis on how we can be good neighbors to those different from us in these days where voices of misinformation and “othering” can be particularly harmful.

October 5 - Two representatives of the Jewish Community Council will join us to update us on the Jewish community in Minnesota today.

October 12 - Dr. Uday Singh, PE, who grew up in Rajasthan, India and is of the Hindu faith, will be sharing his background, culture, philosophy, and faith; comparing similarities and slight differences than those typical of Minnesota and the U.S. Technically, Hinduism is a philosophy “way of life” and not a religion, a term given by Western Society. Hindu is the world's oldest living religion and third largest with a diverse range of beliefs and practices that emphasize the presence of a divine spirit in the universe, the journey of the soul through multiple lifetimes, and the concept of dharma (righteous living). Dr. Singh is currently the Modeling and Outcomes Coordinator at the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in St. Paul with a specialty in hydrology, hydrogeology, soil and water conservation, and water quality.

October 19 - Join us for a discussion of “What Does It Mean to Be Human?” inspired by the Smithsonian exhibit on “Exploring Human Origins” currently on display at Luther Seminary. Contact Jennie Thomas if interested in carpooling to view the exhibit on Friday evening, October 17 in preparation for Sunday's discussion.

October 26 and November 2 - Stay tuned and check the bulletins emailed on Fridays for details. Arrangements are not yet complete at the newsletter deadline, but we hope to hear from representatives of Muslim and Buddhist communities.



Director Needed for St. Philip's



If you love children and love music, we may have a ministry opportunity for you! Our congregation currently needs someone to step up to lead our children's choirs. If you think you might be interested in this important ministry, ask Pastor Geier about it. You might just be surprised at what God is calling you to do!

Spiritual Gifts Retreat

Saturday, October 11 at 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville



“Who has God created me to be?”

This retreat will provide you with an opportunity to look deeply at who you are and how God has uniquely blessed you with certain gifts. Using spiritual gift inventories, conversation and other tools, you will go home with a better sense of who you are and how you might best serve your faith community and the world! Retreat leaders include Pastor Justin Grimm (St. Paul Area Synod), Pastor Kirsten Fryer (Bethlehem in the Midway, St. Paul), Deacon Nina Joygaard (Faith, Forest Lake) and Pastor Wendy Steger (All Saints, Eagan). The cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch. If you are interested, please register at: <https://spas-elca.org/event/spiritual-gifts-retreat-fall-2025/>.

Exploring Human Origins Exhibit

The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History has had an exhibit about the development of humans for several years. They have more recently created a 1200-square-foot traveling version of the exhibit that is being featured at libraries and seminaries around the country. From August 15-November 16 this year the exhibit is on display in the lobby of the Olson Campus Center at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and is available to view Monday-Thursday 12-6 pm and Friday 12-8 pm.

From the Luther Seminary website: "The question of what it means to be human has never been more important. Christian leaders are increasingly called to engage communities of faith in deep, meaningful conversations around science and religious belief, care for creation, how we understand who we are as humans, how being human matters in today's world.

Through panels, interactive kiosks, hands-on displays, and videos, "Exploring Human Origins" invites viewers of all ages and faith traditions to explore and learn about milestones in the evolutionary journey of becoming human.

For more information about the exhibit, check out: <https://humanorigins.si.edu/exhibit/exploring-human-origins-what-does-it-mean-be-human>. We will be reflecting on what this all means to us as people of faith in our Adult Forum on Sunday, October 19 after worship. While all are invited to visit the exhibit during any of the hours it is open, if there is interest, we will organize a group visit on Friday, October 17, followed by an optional group dinner at a mutually agreed upon dining venue. Contact Jennie Thomas by Sunday, October 12, if interested in this opportunity.



St. Philip's Bake / Soup / Quilt Sale

When: Saturday, November 22 from 9 am-12:30 pm
 What: All kinds of baked goods, including Quick Breads, Yeast Breads, Cakes, Pies, Candy, Cookies, especially Scandinavian Goodies and Lefse, Jams, Jellies, and Pickles. Please package and label all items including allergy information such as containing nuts.

Lefse Making Opportunities

When: Thursday, October 16 at 9 am until done
 Saturday, November 1 at 9 am until done

Sign-up sheets for lefse making and donations of ingredients are on the kiosk in the narthex.

Soup Making

When: Friday, November 21, 9 am
 What: Four kinds of soup: Chicken Taco, Hamburger and Vegetable, Turkey and Wild Rice (gluten free), Bean and Ham (gluten free)

Sign-up sheets for workers for making soup and for the day of the sale will be available in the narthex in October.

Lots of ways to participate.

Quilt Sale

When: Saturday, November 22, 9 am-12:30 pm
 What: Beautiful Quilts made by St. Philip's Do Day members

Coffee Supply Needs a Boost

It is customary that member-households are invited to supply a container of coffee for the after-worship fellowship time. The supply of regular coffee is on its last container. If you choose to provide a container, please bring it to the Welcome Center. A common store brand of your choice will be most welcomed.

Poinsettias

It will soon be time to order poinsettias for decorating the sanctuary at Christmas time. Watch for the poinsettia sign-up sheet to order one in memory or in honor of loved ones. Choose a white, pink or red poinsettia. The deadline to sign up is November 2.

Stewardship Corner

God has given all of us "talents". Sometimes it's hard for us to understand exactly what talents are. When I think about talents, I consider knitting, crocheting, painting, woodworking, canning, or even crafty skills. When I look at myself, I don't necessarily feel that I would fit in many of those categories.

The talents which were given to us, were given to us by God. Yes, many have been more developed through attending classes, or taught by others. God has given us all gifts to share. Sharing our gifts offers us a gift to ourselves, and also to others. Church is also where relationships and friendships are built. It would be more effective if we decided to do something out of love, rather than obligation. Just like those who are welcomed to St. Philip's Church out of love, our lives are enriched when we act out of love for the benefit of others as well.

I have never felt a part of such a diverse congregation and found myself thinking, "this is how church is supposed to be". Besides giving your offering donation, St. Philip's has many other contributions we could use in our church home. Just inviting someone to come to church with you can make a big difference in someone's life. Many people would like to attend a church service, but they have never been asked.

St. Philip's has many different committees which we could always use new members to share their ideas and opinions. Welcomers and Greeters, Ushering, Mentoring, Scripture Readers, Singers/Musicians, Yard Workers, Ride Providers, Maintenance Workers, Garden Workers, Annual Garage Sale Workers, Sunday School Helpers, and Cooks during special events. Quilting is also available or even attending some community services such as the Blood Drive or helping at Hastings Family Service.

Please feel free to ask anyone at church, as to whom to contact, while searching for someone you could speak to about your time, talents, and treasures. You bring so much joy to our church community. Thank you for your selfless contributions. You make our church a better place, and your efforts are truly appreciated.

Jeannie Evans

Stewardship Mailing

"Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Faith". Yes, this is the stirring theme chosen to build our spirits, and point them to how am I doing with sharing my time, talents, and resources with the ministries which we know touch so many people, and bring them closer to their Lord and Savior.



Pledge Cards for our intended 2026 giving, and a 2026 Time and Talent form, along with an inspirational brochure, a message from the stewardship team, and a pancake reservation card will be in the large envelope coming in late October.

The Stewardship team welcomes your prayers for a stewardship emphasis season that will touch our thankful hearts and bring forth a generosity to God's glory.

Calendar:

- September 21 Stewardship Temple Talk by Kevin Ekstrom
- October 12 Stewardship Temple Talk by Wes Ask
- November 2 Stewardship Temple Talk by Patty Wilson
- November 9 Stewardship Sunday, Return of Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Forms, followed by a complimentary Pancake Breakfast

Outdoor Concert with Pie Was a Happy Time



Given it was the fifth and last outdoor concert behind Historic LeDuc for 2025, there was concern about attendance and weather. Both concerns were quickly quieted as a good number of guests came to hear the Double Down Daredevils and have a piece of St. Philip's pie. Many other members gave cash donations which greatly helped the evening's success. Proceeds for ministry resulted in \$922.

Thanks to pie bakers, Brenda Arndtson, Jeanne Cowee, Maureen Edstrom, Deb Frandrup, Maria Gathje, Emily Preston, Becky Raimann, Carolyn Schaar, Glenda Schnirring, Judy Stark, Patty Todnem, and Denise Jacobs who provided both gluten free and regular brownies.



Donna Mathiowetz, grief author and speaker, will be with us on Wednesday, November 19 at 6 pm. More information to come.

Military Prayer List

St. Philip's regularly prays for our member's military. There is the military bulletin board next to the Youth Room with a list of those members. If you have a family member that you would like on the Military Prayer List or there is an update on the status of your family member, please contact Camille Nelson or the church office.

It's All About Jesus!

As the world continues to struggle with wars and worldwide natural disasters, packing a shoebox is a simple and fun way to help spread the gospel to boys and girls around the world. This is your chance to be a missionary from the comfort of your own hometown! Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



Will you partner with us and Samaritan's Purse to share that glorious hope with boys and girls around the world -- many of whom have never heard the name of Jesus?

Look for the red and green shoeboxes, labels and packing tips on the table in the narthex starting late October. You can also use your own shoebox from home if you prefer.

The last day to drop off a filled shoebox this year will be Sunday, November 23. If packing a traditional shoebox isn't an option for you this year, consider building a shoebox online! Directions on how to do this can be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Questions? Please visit us at the table in the narthex, contact Emily Preston or Robyn Tank, or visit the Samaritan's Purse website at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Thank you for partnering with us this shoebox season to bring Good News and Great Joy to suffering children around the world!

Adopt a Spot Proved to be the Answer

The invitation to "Adopt a Spot" on St. Philip's property from May through October has resulted in a continuing well-groomed corner of our city. TEN locations were listed as needing to be weeded and trimmed when necessary and members stepped up. Signing up in May for the job were: Bruce Akins, Trish Bremer, Holly and Shawn Busby, Julie Dale, Kent and Pam Hoffman, Jim and Denise Jacobs, Katy Lindberg, Emily Preston, Robyn Tank, Rod and Lynda Thorland, Al and Patty Todnem, Steve Wolverton and Bruce Arndtson also helped when it was needed.



The corner sign got a nice lift this year with annuals and hostas planted



The Prayer Garden shows from the street and from the inside. It was in great shape all summer.



Affirmation of Baptism Celebration (Confirmation) will be October 26 at our 9:30 am Reformation worship service! Come help our newly confirmed members celebrate!



Confirmation Early Birds

On Wednesday evenings when Confirmation class is scheduled, students are invited to come early at 6:00 pm to hang out, play games, and 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 own beverages. We will meet in the Youth Room.

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 you have registered your student for Confirmation, you **do not** need to complete this form.



Middle School Events

The Middle School group had a lock-in in September! They had pizza, played games, watched a movie, and more! It was a great night that was made possible by a team of amazing volunteers: Jen Klos, Tammy Krey, Sydney McCutcheon, Dawn Owen, Carlos, Micah and Sophia Villavicencio, and Jen Williams.

The next Middle School event is scheduled for October 12 from 2 to 4 pm. We still need 5-6 volunteers to help make this a successful event! If you are available, reach out to Lydia at lydiac@splchastings.org or sign up on the board next to the Youth Room.

High School Events

In September, the High School group turned out the lights and took over the church for a few rounds of laser tag! A huge thank you to Dave Tank, Kristian Ronning, Tammy Krey, and Carlos Villavicencio for their help with the equipment and willingness to play along like one of the kids!

The next High School event is scheduled for November 1. We will be creating our own "space" for Trunk or Treat, followed by a movie night with popcorn in the Youth Room. We will need volunteers

throughout both portions of the event. If you are available, reach out to Lydia at lydiac@splchastings.org or sign up on the board next to the Youth Room.

New! High School Bible Study Opportunity

High schoolers are invited to meet for a Bible study on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 to 8:15 in the Youth Room. The first half hour is dedicated to fellowship and is youth-led; it is then followed by a guided Bible study with Lydia. Come by yourself or bring a friend!

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!



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](https://www.instagram.com/splc.youth).

Confirmation SERVING Event!

Wednesday, October 22 at 6:30-9:00 pm

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

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



Lock-In



Laser Tag



Installation of Sunday School Staff

Seven dedicated St. Philip's adults were installed as the committed staff for the Sunday School program of St. Philip's children. From left to right, Kristian Ronning, Jenny Williams, Becky Kaphing, Carlos Villavicencio, Bernita Weber, Marjorie Peterson and Lydia Cummings. The congregation is very grateful for the thorough and fine work this group of teachers have proven to be.



Sunday School

Sunday school is off and running. On Sunday September 14, our preschool through 5th graders started Sunday school. It's never too late to join Sunday school. Registration forms and schedules can be found on the children's ministry bulletin board.

We have a great group of lead teachers in our Sunday school program, but we are really wanting to get more people to join and help on Sunday mornings. You don't have to be "in charge" of the group but just be some extra hands or just another person to listen to the kids. It is so important for as many people as possible to be a part of children's lives and let them know they are valued. As a church we can all help nurture these children. Please talk to Becky Kaphing if you are interested in helping out our Sunday school program in any way.



Opening the Bible Class

On September 6 Noah and Calvin along with their moms learned all about how to use their new Bibles they were getting. Pastor taught them how to use it, some facts about the Bible, how to find verses, and how to read them. These two did an amazing job even reading some verses out loud!



Rally Day Fun

Sunday, September 7 was a very busy and exciting day for the children of St. Philip's. Some of the highlights included preschool and elementary Bibles be handed out, blessing of the backpacks, bounce houses, bubbles, popcorn, and other fun outdoor activities. It was a great way to kick off the programming year!



Huge Success in School Back Packs for Lutheran World Relief

Under the project guidance of Jan Kochendorfer and Jennie Thomas, 304 back packs were boxed for delivery and shipment to a Lutheran World Relief location. Thrivent Financial became a financial partner in the project with \$250, toward bag purchase and SPLC members donated all the school supplies, plus cash which covered the cost of shipping. This annual outreach is participated in by all ages. It's with the leadership and time of Jan and Jennie, plus all donors of supplies and \$ that the project is so successful.



A beautiful line of people repeated going through until the supplies were out.



Adults and youth worked together to get the job done. (These are erasers not carrots)



Molly was going through the line for her eleventh time



Jane Kochendorfer and a key helper Cynthia Clanton stand ready before the service.

Blessing of the Quilts and School Kits

It draws on one's emotions to see the hard goods that St. Philip's members have made happen for the Lutheran World Relief "neighbors" who get touched by our gifts to them. Twenty-six quilts and 304 filled school bags will be soon at destinations where another child of God will have life just a little easier. Thanks to all who participated by purchasing supplies, packing the kits, and sewing for hours on the quilts.



New Members

It was a joyous day on Sunday, September 14, when individuals from three households became members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Please read about them and make a point to meet them the next time you're at worship.



Getting acquainted with new members was in full swing after worship. New member, Brooke Gjemse is getting to know congregation's president, Dan Strehlow.



Denny Kohn discovered he is a neighbor to new members Abigail and Kristian Sebion, as he and Pastor Geier, visit about the morning.

Gary Afdahl

Gary was born and raised on a farm near Hammond Wisconsin, graduating from a high school class of forty-eight students. He continued his education at UW-River Falls, until he was drafted into the Army in 1966. From Fort Carson Gary was sent to Vietnam. After his safe return home, he became involved in the grain business and later



agricultural lending at the bank in Hammond. The later years of his career were spent selling agricultural products and services, retiring in 2012, due to heart issues.

Gary moved to Hastings in 1983 while still in the grain business where he met his wife Renee, to whom he has been married 30 years. They enjoy a blended family of six adult children and sixteen grandchildren.

At the age of twelve, Gary became the organist at his home church, a rural and very Norwegian church steeped in the language and traditions of their Norwegian immigrant ancestors, who had settled there in the 1850s.

Job moves have taken Gary to different areas, but he remained active as an organist/pianist and choir director wherever he lived for sixty-five years. He has served churches in Hammond, Ellsworth, and Prescott, Cottage Grove and Hastings.

Gary's first connection to St. Philip's was when Ellen Diischer asked if he would be a substitute organist for SPLC. He was impressed with its Allen organ, but also with the service, preaching, and friendliness of the people. Once he had retired from his music ministry, his first choice was to have St. Philip's become his church home.

Welcome to St. Philip's, Gary Afdahl, the congregation is pleased to welcome you. Deborah Dreher served as Gary's sponsor.

Brett Gjemse and daughter Brooke Gjemse

Brett Gjemse was born in North St. Paul but was raised on a farm near Wanamingo, Minnesota. Following high school, he went to Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minnesota. His occupation has



become that of a Fiber Optic Technician for a telecommunications company. Brett travels throughout Southeast Minnesota on assignments. His places of residency have been Cottage Grove, Inver Grove Heights, and Hastings.

In his spare time, Brett enjoys walking and exploring

the outdoors, yard work, gardening, fishing, spending time with friends and family and traveling.

When asked why Brett and his daughter joined St. Philip's, Brett stated "that he feels in his heart that God chose this for their place of worship and feel enticed in being here."

Brooke Gjemse, Brett's daughter, was born and raised in Hastings and is a junior in Hastings High School. Her favorite parts of high school are the opportunities and in particular, the art classes. In her spare time she plays the viola and is part of the color guard in the HHS marching band. She also enjoys writing and drawing.

After high school, Brooke hopes to be accepted to Iowa State University for an Aerospace Engineering degree.

St. Philip's is very happy to welcome this father and daughter into the congregation. The sponsors selected for them were Lydia and Ethan Cummings, given Brooke's recent participation with the senior high youth group.

Kristian and Abigail Sebion

Congratulations, and Welcome! are both appropriate for this newly married couple who just joined St. Philip's Lutheran Church. The Sebions were married in May and purposely waited until now to join a church together.



Abigail was born in Florida but moved to New Ulm, Minnesota as an infant. Kristian was born in St. Paul and raised in Hastings. Upon their respective high school graduations, Abigail and Kristian went to Hamline University. While they did not meet there, college friends introduced them years later, and they are now married.

Abigail is an Account Manager at a healthcare staffing agency and Kristian works for his family business, a metal manufacturing company in Prescott, Wisconsin. Abigail enjoys reading and baking sourdough. Kristian enjoys playing video games and "grabbing a beer at Spiral Brewery". As a couple, they have recently

started playing cribbage and pickleball together. As newlyweds, their goal right now is to enjoy married life and to show God's love to others through a strong, faith-centered marriage.

As a couple it was important to them to find a church home and as they started visiting churches in Hastings, they immediately felt welcomed by the people of St. Philip's. "We appreciate what an active congregation it is and all the opportunities there are to help us grow in our faith".

Sponsors for Kristian and Abigail were Stacy and Jeff Carlson, whose son Ben, was a high school friend of Kristian's. Welcome, Kristian and Abigail!

Keeping Connected



Hello! My name is Michelle Carlson. I became a member of St. Philip's Church the summer of 2015. I joined because I wanted to attend church on a regular basis to help me become stronger in my faith. I knew a few people who were already

members, and they said it was a great church. St. Philip's has turned out to be a wonderful church for me! I have made friends and enriched my life with volunteer opportunities. I worship coordinate on a regular basis and always look forward to helping with the garage sale. There is something for everyone here, all are truly welcome! Being an active member at St. Philip's Church helps keep me grounded in my faith. As a single adult, I find this church to have a beautiful diverse congregation that cares for one another. We are so blessed!



Worship Leaders October 2025

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26 Reformation Sunday Confirmation Sunday
	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
Worship Coordinator	Mary Rock Connie Ball	Glenda Schnirring Susan Cruse	Bruce and Brenda Arndtson	Dave and Dolores Pemble
Greeter	Dan Strehlow	Karen Elliott	Bruce Akins	Carolyn Schaar
Usher	Al & Patty Todnem	Darla Kimmes Katy Lindberg	Al & Gail Carstensen	Kent & Pam Hoffman
Lector		David Weisser	Margaret Cox	Lori Best
Communion Bread	Pastor Geier Deborah Dreher	Pastor Geier Lori Best	Pastor Geier Virginia Spence	Pastor Geier Lori Best
Communion Wine	Vicki Pavlish Lois Wroge	Jennie Thomas David Weisser Richard Beatty	Judy Werner Darlene Olson	Lisa Berger Barb Jorenby
Acolyte	Brook Lundstrom Grant Anderson	Violet Sieben Greta Sieben	Owen Tireman	Parker Perseke Brook Lundstrom
Offering Counters	Pam Hoffman Mary Rock	Deb Frandrup Deborah Dreher	Ron Toppin Bob Cruse	Judy Hansen Denny Kohn
Prayer Team	Jennie Thomas	Barb Jorenby	Judy Werner	Geri Holmseth
Sount Board	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Music Leader/Cantor	Praise Band	Adult Choir	Unity	Maria Gathje
Organist/Musicians	Meg Rein	Noreen Swanson	Noreen Swanson	Noreen Swanson JoyPhil Ringers

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).

2025 October							St. Philip's Lutheran Church						
Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
28		29		Sep 30		1	2	3	4				
						3:00 PM HCA Concert 6:00 PM Confirmation Earth Bird 6:45 PM Confirmation	1:00 PM Do Days 6:00 PM Fische/Schwartz Rehearsal		7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Praise Band Rehearsal 3:00 PM Fische/Schwartz Wedding				
5	9:30 AM Praise Worship 10:40 AM Adult Forum 10:40 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Convene Nominating Committee 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	6	1:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM CMT 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry 6:15 PM Youth/Phil Ringers 7:00 PM Joy/Phil Ringers	7	3:30 PM Unity 5:00 PM Fellowship Ministry 6:00 PM Worship & Music 7:00 PM Faith Formation	8	11:00 AM Preschool Chapel 6:00 PM Confirmation Earth Bird 6:45 PM Confirmation	9	9:30 AM Circle Meeting/Bible Study 11:00 AM Preschool Chapel 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels	10		11	M. Carlson Wedding (offsite) 8:00 AM Women's Bible Study
12	9:30 AM Worship 10:40 AM Adult Forum 10:40 AM Sunday School 3:00 PM HCA Concert 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	13	10:30 AM Preschool Fire Truck Visit 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:15 PM Youth/Phil Ringers 6:30 PM Finance Ministry 7:00 PM Joy/Phil Ringers	14	10:30 AM Preschool Fire Truck Visit 3:30 PM Unity 5:30 PM Prayer Team	15	Newsletter Deadline No Preschool	16	No Preschool 9:00 AM Lefse Making 1:00 PM Do Days 7:00 PM Scout Committee	17	No Preschool	18	7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM 500 Card Club
19	Raise/Right Orders Due 9:30 AM Worship 10:40 AM Adult Forum 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	20	1:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Preschool Culver's 6:00 PM Council 6:15 PM Youth/Phil Ringers 7:00 PM Joy/Phil Ringers	21	3:30 PM Unity	22	11:00 AM Preschool Chapel 6:00 PM Confirmation Earth Bird 6:30 PM Confirmation Feed My Starving Children	23	11:00 AM Preschool Chapel 11:45 AM Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Stewardship Packet Assembly	24		25	8:00 AM Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Confirmation
26	REFORMATION 9:30 AM Worship / Confirmation 10:40 AM Adult Forum 10:40 AM Sunday School 2:00 PM Downtown Halloween 6:30 PM Scout Troop 9023	27	1:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Preschool Ministry 6:00 PM Adult Spiritual Growth 6:15 PM Youth/Phil Ringers 7:00 PM AAUW 7:00 PM Joy/Phil Ringers	28	3:30 PM Unity	29	10:00 AM Chapel @ Oak Ridge 6:00 PM Confirmation Earth Bird 6:45 PM Confirmation	30	10:30 AM Preschool Halloween Party	31	10:30 AM Preschool Halloween Party	Nov 1	

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

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Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher

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ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota

651-437-6541 www.splchastings.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service:

In Person and Livestream Worship at 9:30 am

(Livestream link on www.splchastings.org,

YouTube and Facebook)

Sunday Education Hour:

Adult Forum at 10:40 am

Sunday School at 10:40 am

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