

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

January 2026

Sunday, January 11
Middle School Game Night
6:00 pm

Saturday, January 17
Family Pizza and Game Night
5:30 pm

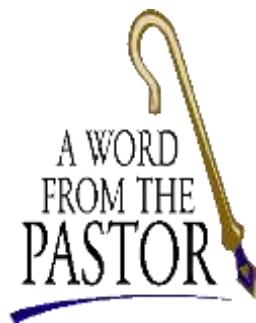
Sunday, January 18
New Member Sunday
9:30 am

Saturday, January 24
High School Feed My Starving Children
8:45 am

Sunday, January 25
Budget Review Forum
10:40 am

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

1 Corinthians 1:4-10



Ah, the joy of a new year! As we begin 2026 together in ministry, I find that I can identify with the apostle Paul. Like Paul and the church in Corinth, I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace that has been given you in Christ Jesus. I am blessed to see God working in many of your lives in so very many ways. Rarely a day goes by that I do not say a prayer of thanks to God for bringing me here to be your pastor.

Also, like Paul, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. This month our family of faith is going to have its annual meeting on February 4 after our 9:30 am service. It is here that we gather to discuss where we have been, what we have done, where we want to go, and how we want to get there. In order for us to make decisions concerning the church we need to have the church there, and that means you!

What is the purpose of St. Philip's Lutheran Church? Why do we really exist? What are our hopes for the future? Our church council has been discussing these questions as we seek to

faithfully be the church. How are we called to be the body of Christ in Hastings, Vermilion, Coates, Nininger Township and the surrounding communities?

One thing that our church council leadership has been discussing is discerning our focus and vision moving forward. In simplest terms, the consensus is that we are about building a community of faith and service. We are also looking for ways to connect singles, couples, young families, and seniors through a variety of opportunities. To that end, we will be asking, "What type of event or ministry would you participate?" One of our goals is to connect more with one another trusting that through those connections our connection with Jesus will also be strengthened.

What are we willing to do to make those hopes a reality? You are St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Your voice needs to be heard. What is important to you? What do we need to do more of? What do we need to do less of?

The Christian Church faces challenges from without and within. Together we need to decide how we wish to face those challenges. As we gather together into the fellowship into which we were called, we may rest assured that God will continue to strengthen us for the journey ahead. Thank you in advance for caring. I look forward to seeing you on the 4th as we seek to discern God's will for us together as Christ's church.

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*

— Among Our Own —

Congratulations...

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

Dave and Barb Fry as they celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary on January 22.

Sympathies...

Karen Elliott and family as they mourn the death of her brother Mike Kassel

Preschool Chatter

Happy New Year!

Working in a Christian preschool in the month of December is such a wonderful blessing! Our Classrooms were very busy and exciting with the holiday. Throughout the month of December, we were learning the true meaning of Christmas with stories, songs, and projects. Our children were also busy making gifts for their families, decorating class Christmas trees, listening to stories, and even had a class pajama Christmas party. One special part of our Christmas party was our fourth annual book exchange. Children each wrapped a book from home, wrote a little note, and then exchanged books as part of our Christmas party. This activity really helps promote what giving is all about in such a fun way.

A huge blessing for our families and staff every year is that our evening Christmas program was able to be held on December 19 with all four classes singing together. The children work so hard on practicing their songs and it really is a magical evening for everyone. Hearing the story of Jesus' birth from these thirty-six beautiful children is truly a gift for everyone involved.

We would like to thank everyone who has been participating in our RaiseRight gift card fundraiser! We have been able to do so many extra things this year because of your generosity. Some things include new learning toys that have been on a wish list of ours, all of our basic school supplies, special holiday items, and we have even covered our spring field trip costs for all of our students. In the new year, we are looking to replace our old laptop computer and have a special guest visitor program for students.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas season and blessings to you all into the new year!

*Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors*



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child or donated funds to help cover shipping and evangelism expenses for the shoeboxes. Because of your love and generosity, forty-five children and their families will have the opportunity to feel God's love and learn about the saving grace of Jesus Christ!

Thank you for partnering with us in this mission to send "Good news and Great joy!"

Emily Preston and Robyn Tank

THANK YOU to the members of St. Philip's who supported our Soup, Bake and Quilt Sale on Saturday, November 22. Very many people contributed very many hours and goods to make this one-day event a success: lefse makers, vegetable peelers and choppers, cooks and support staff, bakers, quilt presenters, set-up and clean-up crew, sale workers, and all others who lent a hand. Thanks to the members of the congregation who came to buy goods at the sale. When each of you tells a friend or neighbor about this sale, it gets better – **THANK YOU!** A huge shout-out to Lista for all her logistical support, including communication and signs. In addition to the baked and canned goods donated by our members, we sold over one hundred sixty packages of lefse and thirty-two gallons of soup! We raised \$7,124 in just three and a half short hours (and Sunday morning, of course!!)

The quilt sale was an important part of the success of the day. See their separate announcement in this newsletter.

As in the past, "Thrivent Action," a program through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gave us a \$250 credit card to purchase supplies. St. Philip's' WELCA organization (Women of the ELCA) uses the profits from the Saturday sale to provide Bible story books for our 3-year olds, Bibles for our 3rd graders, help with tuition for a female college student in Tanzania, and various other mission projects, including disaster relief. **THANK YOU AGAIN!**

Leaders and Co-Leaders of the Bake, Soup, and Quilt sale

Adult Forums for January

January 4 - Come hear about some of the agencies and groups that we will vote on to invest our tithe of miscellaneous offerings and garage sale proceeds. Be informed before you vote at the Annual Meeting on February 1.

January 11 - Who gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate. Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate? provides research-informed practical strategies to protect your family relationships when passing on personal possessions. Paring down and deciding if and how to transfer personal possessions is inevitable when a family member downsizes, declutters, moves or dies. No matter who you are — older parent, spouse, adult child, educator, legal professional or social services practitioner — Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Plate? offers a range of resources to help address common inheritance decision making challenges. This 38-minute video has practical suggestions, proven strategies, and real-life stories to help family members understand and address common decision-making obstacles when passing on personal possessions.

January 18 - Navigating An Unexpected Family Loss. Krishona Martinson, P.D.D. will share the real-life story of how a family navigated the sudden loss of a young husband and father while also providing concrete steps you can take now to prepare your own family for the unexpected. From legal and financial considerations to communication and record-keeping, the goal is to help ensure that if a tragedy occurs, you can keep the family running and avoid devastating setbacks. Dr. Martinson is Professor and Equine Extension Specialist, Department of Animal Science, University of Minnesota.

January 25 - Annual Budget Review - The annual budget review for 2026 will be presented. If you have any questions regarding the budget, this is the time to ask prior to the annual meeting which is Sunday, February 1. Pick up your annual report when available at the welcome center.

Sunday Scripture Readings

January 4	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18
January 11	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
January 18	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
January 25	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

Ladies Activity Ideas???

Fellowship Ministry would like to know of ideas for a social get together / activity at church or out and about in the next few months. We originally labeled it Ladies Night Out.

This is different from the WELCA outing that is held in summer.

In the past we've created art pieces at the art studio, gone bowling, had a wellness discussion at Hauck Chiropractic, played board games at church, had activity stations at church, and went to Saints games. Anything in mind you think we could try new? Please contact Camille Nelson or anyone on the Fellowship Ministry team.

GIVING AND EXPENSE	
2025	2024
November 2025 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$438,557.13	\$687,278.48
November 2025 YTD Capital Fund	
\$199,473.57	\$162,506.50
November 2025 YTD Expenses	
\$588,717.22	\$599,591.88
Net	
\$49,313.48	\$250,193.10
November 2025 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$90,887.18	\$86,473.13

Directory Photo Update

If you have taken a recent family picture or plan to during the holidays, please share it with your St. Philip's family by allowing us to put it in the directory. If you would like us to snap a picture for you at church, we would be happy to do that as well. See Becky or Jay Raimann. You can send pictures to Lista in the church office via email (Listak@splchastings.org) or to Becky Raimann via text (651-437-1377) or email (raimannjandb@comcast.net).

Lista Klocow Retires Following 23 Years of Service to St. Philip's

On Sunday, January 25, 2026, the congregation will honor Lista Klocow's twenty-three years of service as the Office Manager for St. Philip's Lutheran Church.



A recognition reception for Lista will be held following the worship service on January 25, 2026. Refreshments and a basket for notes of thanks and reflections will be made available. Plan to extend your morning on January 25, to help celebrate Lista.

Annual Meeting Potluck

St. Philip's annual business meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1 at 10:45 with a potluck lunch to follow. Beverages and dinnerware will be provided.

To have a variety of dishes, those planning to share in the potluck lunch are asked to bring something according to the following guidelines. (But if you have a favorite dish, you're welcome to bring that). Foods may be dropped off at the kitchen before or after the service.

Last names beginning with...
A-L Main Dish J-R Dessert S-Z Salad

Questions about the Potluck can be addressed to Camille Nelson, Fellowship Ministry Chair.

Do Days: Quilt Sale Update

Thank you for supporting Do Days, your quilting and crafting ministry, at St. Philip's 2025 Bake, Soup and Quilt Sale. We sold about twenty-five items and made over \$1,400.

Our primary goal is making quilts for people in need. The organization we work with—Lutheran World Relief (LWR)—sends quilts worldwide, to Ukraine, Tanzania and elsewhere. It's rewarding to know we are meeting a need, even if only in a small way.

We used the sale to raise needed funds. Though we have received many donations of fabric for the quilts we produce, there is still much we must purchase, like polyester fiberfill. We also cover postage for shipping our products to their final destination.

Here's what we did with our quilts and funds:

- In 2025 we sent over three dozen quilts to LWR.
- Quilts that do not meet LWR specifications are offered for sale or donated elsewhere. In 2025 several of our quilts went to Dakota Woodlands, a homeless shelter in Eagan.
- In 2025 we provided approximately \$250 to LWR for shipping.
- We are now deciding where we will make cash donations in Hastings and Minnesota.



Do Days - Richard Beatty, Joan Zimmerman, LuAnn Roiger, Barb Jorenby, Jean Zeimet, Carolyn Schaar, Jennie Thomas, Steve Wolverton, Vicki Pavlish, Bernita Weber, Darla Kimmes

"Doing for Others!"

ANNUAL MEETING



On Sunday, February 1 at 10:45 am, St. Philip's Lutheran Church will conduct our congregation's annual meeting. At this meeting we will accept reports from our staff ministry team and lay ministry team leaders, vote on lay leadership for the coming year, and approve a budget. We will also be voting on how to distribute our tithe of miscellaneous income between various local and broader ministries.

There will again be an option to participate via Zoom. This was made possible by a council action in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and then a later change to our constitution. There will also be opportunities to discuss the budget on the Sunday prior to the annual meeting through Zoom meetings as well.

We will still need a quorum to complete these important matters, and we anticipate that everything should take less than an hour, so please plan on participating. Like in previous years we will keep record of all those participating. There will be green and red printed pieces of paper in the February newsletter that should provide enough materials for two voting members per household. If there are more than two voting members, any green or red paper will work or a paper with "YES" or "NO" written in large letters will suffice.

Please stay tuned for the Zoom links for our budget and constitution forums.

It Is Time to Vote at Our Annual Meeting!

Each year we are blessed with the opportunity to vote on how to invest our tithe of miscellaneous offerings and garage sale proceeds in local and non-local ministries.

Ministries in Hastings/Dakota County:
() Feed My Starving Children – Eagan
<https://www.fmsc.org/>

Feed My Starving Children – Eagan is one of eight permanent packing sites where volunteers are mobilized to pack nutritious MannaPack® meals that are distributed by FMSC partners around the world. St. Philips groups volunteer at least twice a year at the Eagan facility packing nutritious meals for hungry children.

() DARTS – Healthy Aging Solutions

<https://dartsconnects.org/transportation/>

DARTS is a community-based nonprofit serving caregivers, older adults (ages 55+) and their families in the southeast metro. DARTS services include things like:

- light housework
- outdoor chores
- home repairs
- caregiving resources
- resource connection
- volunteer opportunities
- and transportation

DARTS works to be a community partner across generations while living out our mission of creating connections that enrich aging.

() Hastings Family Service:

<https://hastingsfamilyservice.org/>

Hastings Family Service provides nutritious foods for individuals and families through the Market food shelf programs, Meals on Wheels, and supportive services for residents of Independent School District 200.

() Rise Up Recovery:

<https://www.riseuprecoverymn.com/>

RISE UP Recovery is a Recovery Community Organization serving Hastings, Minnesota, Dakota County and surrounding areas. We currently provide Peer Recovery Support Services, recovery housing, advocacy, and community education. We believe in and value all pathways to recovery. While our fundamental values are grounded in Christianity, we value each individual's journey of healing, change, and transformation. We have a "Recovery First" value system that places the utmost value and belief in each individual's ability to achieve and maintain long-term recovery. We know because we live it every day!

**Ministries Beyond Hastings/Dakota County:
() Center for Changing Lives Frogtown/
Rondo, a ministry of Lutheran Social Services**

Thus far, \$7.2m has been raised towards the \$7.5m goal, and construction is underway, and hope to open the building open for children and youth next spring/ summer.

The facility will include:

- *19 apartments for youth – (and their children) – who are exiting instability and homelessness
- *classrooms, *an exercise room
- *a “hang out” lounge, *a laundry room
- *a “drop in” center for youth in crisis, including a shower, a clothing closet, a food pantry, etc.
- *a big, shared kitchen and eating area
- *LSS staff offices for: behavioral health, employment services, financial counseling, housing services.

This center will truly be a beacon of hope in the Frogtown/Rondo neighborhood. We are so excited about it!

**() Green Lake Lutheran Ministries –
Water’s Edge Campaign**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1eYy2uY_N4

GLLM is entering Phase 2 of their Water’s Edge Campaign. Part of this \$3.3-million-dollar campaign includes site updates that will be focused on enhancing both the camper experience and foundational infrastructure, ensuring our facilities are safe, accessible, and primed for ministry impact. While not outwardly grand, these projects-including paving the Green Lake Bible Camp parking lot, upgrading camper bathhouses and summer camp lodge at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp, improving heating and cooling systems, preserving Camp House cabins, and renovating camper cabins and retreat rooms - are crucial to supporting our mission’s longevity.

Funds will also be used for organizational strategy planning, debt reduction, and rebranding. As part of Phase 1, the Village at Shores of St. Andrew was completely renovated including redesigning the Lodge’s floorplan to accommodate all levels of accessibility and make the Village a place of rest, growth, learning and spiritual rejuvenation.

() Shobi’s Table Food Truck Ministry

<https://shobistable.org/>

Shobi’s Table is a Pay-As-You-Can Cafe on wheels that serves fresh, from-scratch, delicious and nutritious lunches to anyone and everyone who comes to our food truck. They believe in community building centered around a table where EVERYONE has access to real, nutritious food – no matter what they can pay, whether it is 10 cents, \$10, \$100, or nothing at all – this table belongs to you.

You can find Shobi’s Table for lunch Tuesday through Friday each week in Saint Paul, Minnesota at four locations.

- Tuesdays at the Capitol – 105 University Avenue West (Christ on Capitol Hill parking lot)
- Wednesdays at Rice and Larpenteur – 1657 Rice Street (MyThrift parking lot)
- Thursdays in Frogtown – 499 Charles Street (Faith Lutheran parking lot)
- Fridays in Midway – 400 Snelling Avenue North (Allianz soccer field parking lot)

Shobi’s Table is a ministry of the St. Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

() The Twin Cities Mobile Market

<https://www.thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/twin-cities-mobile-market/>

The Mobile Market visits more than twenty neighborhood sites around St. Paul and Minneapolis who do not have access to full-service supermarkets, grocery stores, or food shelves and provides high quality groceries including fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, and grains. Shopping is easy, convenient, and open to everyone. The Mobile Market makes stops around the metro area each week. Each year they serve nearly 10,000 customers at sites around St. Paul and Minneapolis.

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
JANUARY 18**

Keeping Connected

Glenda Schnirring and I started these monthly newsletter stories about five years ago - covid era. We were about to stop a couple of years ago and we heard "NO, DON'T STOP" - we like the stories, so we are still here. I told Glenda "you are so busy and I can't do physical labor anymore, but God gave me a strong voice so I can call and talk. And that is why you get calls from me.



If you want to have one trait in life - BE KIND. SPLC is full of kind people. Some people say 'no' - but they are the exception rather than the rule. I ask people if they read the stories and just about all answer YES.

I tell people that the stories can be as long or short as they want - this one will be short - partly because a lot of people know my story and partly because I am tired. The writers need to get their information to me by the 15th of the month prior to the month of print - it is now almost 11:30 pm on the 15th of December.

I just have to tell you about all the wonderful children we have at SPLC. The kids put together a play about the Birth of Jesus. They had the costumes even. I was so proud of them and I know you were, also. The older kids showed so much maturity and the younger ones learn from them! Because of the ice and the bitter cold, I couldn't be there. So I watched it online. We are blessed to have that perk - I miss seeing and visiting with my Brothers and Sisters in Christ in person, but I am learning to be thankful for what I have rather than what I have lost.

Warm Friendship and Always love,
Gerri Lundby

P.S. Thank you to all the parents of these children - you're doing a GREAT JOB!

Start of Advent

Advent began November 30, with the installation of the large banner and the putting up of the Christmas Tree. It is an effort made possible through the cooperation of many volunteers.

Erecting the mural happened on November 29, with Council President Dan Strehlow on the ladder



Sunday November 30, the chancel had a new Christmas tree given by Jim and Apryl Wagner, the mural painted by the congregation four years ago and the blue paraments gracing the altar and banner stand



The First Sunday of Advent was the lighting of the first candle by Lorena and Sam Willis. Annabella reaches to light the candle of Hope.



The Second Sunday of Advent's candle is lit by Sam and Sheila Robertson and daughter Maggie.



The third Advent candle of Joy was described and lit by the Ronning family, Tor, Kristian, Linnea, Espen and Lizbet

Philadazzle 2025

The first Sunday of Advent ushered in St. Philip's annual Philadazzle event. A catered evening dinner with the theme "A Taste of Italy" was enjoyed by sixty guests. Bruce Arndtson was the MC at the dinner, and he introduced the evening's entertainment, Lucas Ussatis provided piano and violin music for the audience. Camille Nelson of the Fellowship Ministry Team led the planning together with Brenda Arndtson, Gladys Campbell, Deb Frandrup, Margaret Goderstad, Raul Jackson, Gerri Lundby, Lois Twedt, Geneva Weisser, Lois Wroge.



Scout Troop 9023, helped with serving the dinner



Lucas Ussatis provided violin and piano music, which pleased the audience greatly



Darla Kimmes enjoys the Italian buffet



Brenda Arndtson and Lois Twedt help with kitchen details



Members enjoy conversation as they wait for their number to be called



Children and Youth Ministries

PJ – Pizza – Game Night

On January 17 from 5:30-7:30 pm all families are invited to a pj, pizza, and game night. Put on your cozy pjs (if you want 😊), bring your family's favorite game to share, and enjoy some pizza. Enjoy a warm and cozy night of fellowship with your church family. Please sign up on the children's ministry board or email Becky to RSVP by January 14 so we can order enough pizza.

Children's Christmas Program

On a cold December 14 morning our children warmed our hearts by sharing the Christmas story. Twenty of our children dressed up in costumes, played instruments, and shared the Christmas story with words and songs. It was such a beautiful gift to hear the true meaning of Christmas from children ranging in age from 2.5 to 12. A special thank you to all the parents that helped out on practice day and helped get all the costumes on the morning of the program.

Mary (Mackenzie) and Joseph, (Calvin) dutifully did their part in earnest



Youth Ministries Events

On Sunday, January 8, the Middle School group will have a game night. We will have card games, board games, and more!

On Saturday, January 24, the High School group will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. We will be leaving at 8:45 am and returning around 12 pm. If you are interested in attending this event with our group, sign up on the kiosk.

Volunteers are needed for both of these events to be a success. If you are interested, sign up on the bulletin board next to the Youth Room. If you have questions about volunteering, connect with Lydia at lydiac@splchastings.org.



One narrator was Connor Klos, with Harrison Haltwick (seated)



Angels of all sizes took part with Espen Ronning being the angel, Gabriel

The High Schoolers celebrated Thanksgiving with Friendsgiving in November. They played games, shared a meal, and decorated the Christmas tree in the Youth Room. A huge thank you to Kathy Luedtke and Dawn Owen for their help with this event! Look for pictures from our Christmas party in the next newsletter.



The Middle Schoolers hosted their Parents' Night Out event on December 13. It's safe to say that everyone had a great time! The Middle School students helped the younger kids complete crafts; then we played games, ate pizza, and watched a movie! Thank you to Steve Wolverton for volunteering for this event!



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)

Sunday Education Hour:

Adult Forum at 10:40 am

Sunday School at 10:40 am

affix label here

TIME DATED MATERIAL

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St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Hastings, MN 55033

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