

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

April 2026

Holy Week Services

April 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00 pm Worship/First Communion

April 3 GOOD FRIDAY
7:00 pm Worship

April 5 EASTER
8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am Worship

April 22 Grief Support
6:00 pm

April 26 Leaders' Retreat
12:00-5:00 pm Schaar's Bluff

**April 28 Preschool Culver's
Night 5:00 pm-7:00 pm**



*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside still waters;
 he restores my soul.
 He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow
 of death, I fear no evil;
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
 enemies;
 You anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
 days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the
 LORD forever!*

Psalm 23

For the 4th Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2026

I do not know if there is any part of our Holy Scripture that is better known than the 23rd Psalm. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want . . ." With these words the psalmist begins six verses that have probably brought comfort to more people throughout the ages than any other words from any other religion or tradition.

It is not just Christians who know these words. Even those who have only the slightest familiarity with Christianity (or Judaism) recognize the verses with their rhythm, "He makes me

lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul."

To be perfectly honest, I did not know how powerful this psalm was until I became a pastor. I could recite the psalm, of course, but I didn't really know the psalm.

It was only after God provided opportunities for me to be with families as they sought comfort as a loved one was dying and together reciting these 111 words that I began to see and appreciate how the Holy Spirit can take an image and graft it into our hearts to give a unique peace that comes from knowing Jesus Christ, our good shepherd.

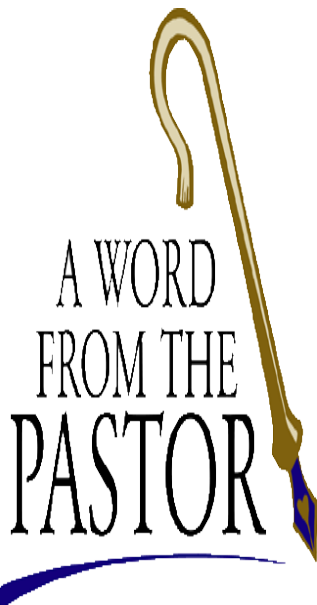
At first glance, it is somewhat ironic that in these weeks of the Easter season, we have texts that are commonly chosen for funerals. However, the more we reflect on it, the more it makes sense. It is during our times of loss and grieving that we are forced to trust in the promise of the resurrection. The promise of the coming kingdom is ultimately the only thing that can bring us comfort. Even as we walk through dark valleys of death we do not fear because God is with us!

We know that even now a table is prepared for us and the one who restores our souls will comfort us. We look forward to the day when we will be reunited with all the saints who have preceded us. We take comfort in knowing that we shall live in the house of the Lord forever. Until then we live our lives of faith trusting in the word of God. We look for the resurrection of the dead and we boldly pray, "The Lord is my shepherd."

Your Servant in Christ,

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier



Sunday Scripture Readings

April 5

Acts 10:34-43
 Colossians 3:1-4
 Matthew 28:1-10

April 12	Acts 2:14, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
April 19	Acts 2:14, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35
April 26	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

Preschool Chatter

March was a month that we rode the weather rollercoaster! Everything from snow to sidewalk chalk. In the month of March our themes were Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, pizza, and Easter. Some of our favorite activities included a big room letter hunt, making pizzas for snack (supplies covered by Raise Right☺), learning the Easter story, egg hunt, and having local author Tori Jurgens come read to us. Teachers were also busy preparing for conferences that are March 30/31. Conferences are a great time for families to learn about their child's progress and ask any questions they may have.

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is now in full swing. If you have any friends, family, or neighbors looking for preschool next fall, please share our information with them. They can email us at preschool@splchastings.org with any questions or follow us on Facebook @StPhilipsPreschoolHastings.

Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein
Preschool Co-Directors

Preschool Culver's Night

Please join us for our final Culver's night of the school year on Tuesday, April 28 from 5-7. Save yourself from cooking and help our preschool at the same time. We receive 10% of all the sales between 5-7. Thank you for your support!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! St. Philip's Leadership Retreat 12:00-5:00 Sunday April 26 at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center

On Sunday April 26th, our church council and all of our ministry team members are invited to a retreat at the beautiful Gathering Center at Spring Lake Regional Park in Hastings. The primary purpose of this retreat is to:

- 1) **Get better acquainted with each other.**
- 2) **Grow spiritually as we pray, study Scripture, and reflect on our ministry and God's will for us and for St. Philip's Lutheran Church**

There will be fellowship, there will be laughter, there will be learning, and there will be food. (Another round of Geiers' Loaded Potato Bar.) If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Pastor Geier. Your participation will make this a better event!

Holy Week Services

April 2 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Worship/First Communion

April 3 Good Friday 7:00 pm Worship

April 5 EASTER Worship!

8:30 Traditional 10:30 Contemporary

Altar Flowers

In the past Cub Foods has been our flower arrangement source but they no longer have a florist on staff. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a Sunday, you can provide your own arrangement and bring it to church on Fridays (before 2 pm) or before church on Sunday. If you need a vase stop at the church and pick one up. Please let the office know if you will be providing flowers for worship so we can acknowledge that in the bulletin.

VBS Save the Date

Save the date for our annual Vacation Bible school July 13-16 9:00-12:00 with a special church service on July 19th to celebrate our week. This is a huge outreach ministry for our community as we usually have about 80 kids join us for the week. We always

have a great group of teens/adults that help with this event and I'm hopeful for the same this year. I'm excited to announce this year's theme will be Road Trip on The Go with God! Curriculum has been ordered, a preplanning will be starting soon.



Easter Worship Leaders

Will you be worshipping here for Easter Sunday, April 5? The Worship and Music Committee seeks volunteers during both the 8:30 & 10:30 am worship services on Easter morning. Volunteers are needed for the following positions: Greeters, Ushers, Lectors, Communion Bread servers, and Communion Wine servers. Please sign up on the kiosk or contact Lori Best at: cell - 763-807-3667
email - loribest1@gmail.com
Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Thanks,
Lori Best

Summer Camp

We have had some interest in attending Camp Wapo (Wapo Youth, for students in 4th-9th grades) this year. We currently have a small group planning to attend the week of July 26 - 31. Please note that there will be no St. Philip's staff attending camp. Camperships are available to help with the cost of tuition. If you are interested in this opportunity, scan the QR code to connect with other parents and receive the link for early registration (spots are limited). For more information about the camp, visit lakewapo.org.



Among Our Own

Congratulations...

Wally John Robertson (son of Sam & Sheila Robertson) blessings on his baptism.

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

Loren and Valerie Mollet on their 73rd wedding anniversary April 30

Ron and Cindy Toppin on their 53rd wedding anniversary on April 7

Neil and Jan Misegades on their 58th wedding anniversary on April 6

David and Geneva Weisser on their 51st wedding anniversary on April 12

Bruce and Brenda Arndtson on their 41st wedding anniversary on April 13

Dennis and Dawn Gourlie on their 36th wedding anniversary on April 7

Tom and Cheryl Bullington on their 35th wedding anniversary on April 27

Mark and Beth Vaughan on their 31st wedding anniversary on April 8

Ron and Judy Hansen on their 24th wedding anniversary on April 18

Shawn and Holly Busby on their 22nd wedding anniversary on April 3.



Children's Ministries Update

On March 8th our Sunday school children got to vote on what animals they would like to purchase through Heifer International with the money raised from fish bowl offering and offering from pastor's chapel times at Oak Ridge. The children learned about six different animals and how buying these animals for people in other countries could benefit families. They were so excited to talk about all the options. Then children got to vote for which animals they wanted to buy. They were able to purchase a water buffalo, a pig, a flock of chicks, and a bee hive. It really was fun to see how excited they got and a great way for the children to see how their offering could help others.

Annual Easter egg hunt will be Sunday April 5 at 9:45 assuming the first service is over by then. We will not

start before that time. This will be a rain or shine activity and will be moved inside if the weather does not cooperate. If you'd be able to help put eggs out we will be doing that at 845 and would love some help. Please let Becky know if you can help.

Vacation bible school registration will start Sunday April 5th. We are so excited to take a road trip with God this summer. VBS will run July 13 -July 16 from 9-12. Children age 3 (and potty trained) – finishing 4th grade are able to participate. In order to make this event a success we also need a lot of both youth and adult volunteers. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for VBS. You will never have to be alone doing anything and we need all types of helpers. If you are interested please reach out to Becky Kaphing.

Youth Ministries Middle School

Our middle school group gathered on Sunday, March 29 for a fun afternoon of dyeing and decorating Easter eggs. Students enjoyed getting creative with their designs and spending time together in fellowship. We wrapped up the event with an exciting egg hunt! Be sure to check the **May newsletter** for pictures from the day.

High School

Our high school students had a great time at their mini lock-in on March 28. The evening was filled with games, pizza, and a round of laser tag, making for a fun night of laughter and connection. Look for photos from the event in the **May newsletter!**

Thank You, Volunteers!

A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who helped make these events possible. Your time and support make a meaningful difference for our youth. We are always looking for additional volunteers to help with upcoming activities. If you are interested in serving, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the Youth Room.

Confirmation Retreat Recap

On March 7, our confirmation students gathered for a day-long retreat at Schaar's Bluff. It was filled with learning, laughter, and faith formation. Even the fresh snowfall couldn't slow us down!

Throughout the retreat, we dug deeper into *why we do the things we do in the Lutheran church*. Through engaging lessons, discussions, and hands-on activities, students explored the meaning behind different parts of worship and how these traditions help shape our faith.

Of course, it wasn't all learning—we also made time for plenty of fun. The day included games, activities, and pizza for lunch, giving students the chance to build friendships and enjoy time together.

One of the highlights of the retreat was when students worked together to **design their own worship service**, thoughtfully incorporating the elements they had learned about throughout the day. It was wonderful to see their creativity and growing understanding of worship.

Despite the snowy start, the retreat was a meaningful and memorable day for everyone involved!





Thank You, Lenten Mentors!

During the season of Lent, our confirmation students were blessed to walk alongside a wonderful group of

Lenten mentors. We are incredibly grateful for the time, encouragement, and faith you shared with our students over these past weeks. By showing up, listening, praying, and engaging in meaningful conversations, you helped our students grow in their understanding of faith and what it means to follow Christ in their daily lives.

Mentorship is a powerful gift. Your willingness to invest in the lives of our young people has made a lasting impact, and we are thankful for the relationships that were formed during this Lenten journey. Thank you for faithfully supporting and guiding our students during such an important season in the church year.

As a way to continue building these connections, we invite mentors to join our confirmation class to serve together at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan on **May 6 from 7:15–8:45 PM**. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve others while spending more time together.

We will **carpool from the church**, leaving at **6:30 PM**.

Serving side-by-side is a meaningful way to continue the spirit of Lent—living out our faith through love and service. We hope many of you will be able to join us for this special evening.

Thank you again for the care, encouragement, and faith you shared with our confirmation students. Your presence truly made this Lenten season meaningful.



A Pastor who was giving a children's sermon on vestments asked, "Why do you think I wear this collar?" A boy called out, "Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"

Adult Forum

April 5

No Adult Forum. Enjoy your Easter Sunday with family and friends.

April 12

Honoring Life: Planning the Final Life Celebration and Memorial Ceremony

- Learn What a Funeral Director and Funeral Home Can Do for You
- Burial, Cremation, and Memorial Service Options Explained
- Ask Anything: Questions Welcome

Featuring Guest Speaker Sarah Wise-Schwieger, Preplanning Specialist from Starkson Family Life Celebration Chapel, Hastings

April 19

Artificial Intelligence and the Church.

What is the role of technology in our faith community? How have we implemented tech in our gatherings, classes, worship, or otherwise? What changed with the pandemic? Was or is there resistance tech use where we are? What sort of typically human contact is and could be done by robots, or AI? Come join a conversation to explore how technology helps (or hinders) ministry! This will be led by Pastor Geier.

April 26

St. Philip's provides care for its members from birth and baptism through death and eternal life. The church offers a final resting place option for its members and their families – a church home columbarium. A columbarium is a group of small compartments, or niches, designed to hold the cremated remains of our loved ones. The columbarium is located east of the church building along Pleasant Drive. The columbarium has 80 niches and includes a beautiful peace garden for visiting family and friends. Judy Hansen will be updating St. Philip's columbarium.

THANK YOU

Lenten Service Musicians: Thank you to all the musicians who led the *Holden Evening Prayer* for our Lenten services. Sharing your talents enhanced our mid-week worship. Musicians: Maria Gathje, David Weisser, Loir Best, Ryan Hummel, Dolores Pemble, Becky Raimann, Raul Jackson, Julia Ronning, Julian Ronning, Noreen Swanson, Dave Tank, and Kurt Zabel.

BLOOD DRIVE - The March 17th blood drive welcomed 53 visitors to St Philips. We collected 43 pints of life saving blood. Thank you to our volunteers and staff who helped make it a success. Our next drive will be in August. - Katy Lindberg

2026 Garage & Plant Sale: Planning & Overview Meeting

Thursday, April 23 6:30 PM Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to attend this meeting. The 2026 Garage & Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, June 6** from 8 am to 3 pm when hundreds of visitors from the greater Hastings area will come to St. Philip's. Deborah Dreher is the Sale Coordinator. Department Leads are selected in and place.

As members, we begin setting aside merchandise now. There are some merchandise donations we cannot accept because in our nineteen years, plus changing times, we know what items won't sell and we want to avoid disposing costs.

Departments for 2026 will be Books, Furniture (selected), Adult Clothing, Shoes & Accessories, Jewelry, Children's, Electronics & Hardware, Kitchen Essentials, Sporting Goods, Games & Puzzles, Linens, Home Décor and outdoor Plants.

We are in this event together, and together we will enjoy the fellowship and extension this day to people who choose to "Come and See".



Art Fun at St. Philip'

On March 6, fifteen gathered in fellowship to create crushed glass and resin suncatchers. There were sunflowers, dragon flies, butterflies and many other designs. Some participants were a bit hesitant at first, there were lots of laughs, and by the end of the class there were beautiful projects to take home. Thanks to Emily Preston for helping arrange the evening with the instructor.

Fellowship Ministry,
Camille Nelson



Installed Council Members for 2026

Recently Installed into their terms on St. Philip's governing board, known as its Church Council are President, Dan Strehlow, in his second term, newly elected Vice President, Judy Hansen, and newly elected Tricia Bremer who is a board member aligned with the Stewardship and Fellowship Ministry Teams. Not pictured is newly elected Council Secretary, Samantha Warnake. Other sitting members of the council are Natalie Carda, Jen Klos, John Nye, Maria Gathje, and Council Treasurer, Dolores Pemble. The church council meets the third Monday of every month to review the work of all committees and make decisions on finance and operations of the church.



It was evident that St. Philip's members lived out the 2026 Stewardship theme, "Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Faith", as boxes and bags of food and other essentials were carried in from the cars of St. Philip's members as donations to the March food drive for Hastings Family Service. The life practices of giving TIME, TALENT & TREASURE all came into play as members creatively shopped for selected foods, manually got them from store to church, and graciously purchased the foods and goods from their own financial resources. Thank you for how life of being a good steward was fully demonstrated through St. Philips' March Food Drive. Glenda Schnirring, Stewardship chair.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Two of the six households welcomed into St. Philip's membership on January 16, are pictured below.



Jarrad, Callen and Carter Infalt, and Taylor Haskell. This family's bio was in the March newsletter.



Bob Koch & Julie Marthaler

"Adopt a Spot" Coming Back

St. Philip's grounds looked great during the summer of 2025, and we know it was because of "Adopt a Spot." This program offers members an opportunity to "Adopt ONE Spot" on the church grounds to weed and nurture from May through September. Ten spots will be listed but several spots can use TWO households. Your time and energy to do this is so appreciated and so needed, make plans to sign up for a spot in May.



Grief Support

Please note that the Grief Support meeting has been rescheduled from April 1 to April 22. St. Philips will be continuing grief support meetings into the new year. If you are experiencing grief, please feel free to join us, even if you just want to check to see if it is a fit for you. This supportive, caring group of people is facilitated by Camille Johnson-Oster in the conference room at 6 pm on Wednesday night on April 22, September 2 and December 2.

WHEN DEMENTIA TOUCHES SOMEONE YOU LOVE..

When someone you love begins to show signs of dementia, the hardest part isn't always the diagnosis; it's the uncertainty. [What do I say?](#) [What helps?](#) [What makes things worse?](#) If those questions have crossed your mind, you are not alone.

On **Thursday, April 23, from 2:30-3:30 pm**, [Benedictine Living Community-Regina](#) is hosting a **free one-hour presentation:**

Simple Ways to Support Those Living with Dementia

Led by Dementia Friends Champion Colleen Fritsch, this gathering will give you practical tools you can use immediately, because small changes in how we respond can make a meaningful difference.

Whether you're a spouse, adult child, neighbor or friend, you'll leave with greater confidence and clarity.

Seats are limited, and early RSVP is encouraged.

Sometimes the most powerful thing we can do is learn – together.

Laura Erickson-Sales & Marketing Manager

Regina Senior Living

1008 1st Street West, Hastings, MN 55033

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GIVING AND EXPENSE	
2026	2025
Feb 2026 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$109,794.91	\$87,642.77
Feb 2026 YTD Capital Fund	
\$43,218.45	\$31,444.35
Feb 2026 YTD Expenses	
\$126,221.77	\$102,171.75
Net	
\$26,791.59	\$16,915.37
Feb 2026 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$15,339.15	\$16,013.94



SINCE YOU ASKED . . .

St. Philip's Lutheran Church is part of the ELCA. What exactly does that mean?

We have many members who have joined St. Philip's from different church backgrounds and I have been asked several times what it means to be a church of the ELCA. In short, ELCA stands for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA was formed in 1988 from a merger of the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. This merger made the ELCA the largest Lutheran denomination in the United States. Below is an excerpt copied from our churchwide website: www.elca.org.

"Since our beginning in 1988, the ELCA has been one church body organized in three expressions — congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Each expression has its particular functions but all three together share a common mission of doing God's work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Together, they ensure a solid foundation of leadership, active involvement in communities, opportunities for dialogue and diverse perspectives, creative partnerships, and support for members and ministries of the ELCA.

The churchwide organization is based out of the Lutheran Center in Chicago and functions with the ELCA's 65 synods and nearly 10,000 congregations across the 50 states, Caribbean and U.S. Virgin Islands. The churchwide organization's work and functions are guided by the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council and four elected officers. Its staff and elected officers work at the Lutheran Center and in other locations around the world serving as administrators, advisors, conveners, partners and resource people for the ELCA and its ministries.

The ELCA also nurtures important connections with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and related organizations. We work alongside 26 colleges and universities related to the ELCA, eight seminaries, more than 2,000 schools and early childhood education centers, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social service agencies, and other agencies and institutions across the country and throughout the world. The work God calls us to do in the world is never done alone or in isolation, and the churchwide organization plays a key role in developing and supporting a culture of interdependence, diversity and common mission across all expressions of the ELCA and its partners."

St. Philip's Lutheran Church is part of the Saint Paul Area Synod with Bishop Patricia Lull serving as our bishop. We are part of the smallest geographical synod although there are several synods with fewer congregations or baptized members. Our synod serves communities from as far south as Randolph, MN and up to Rush City in the north. Our westernmost congregations are in the Burnsville/Apple Valley area while the St. Croix River serves as our eastern boundary.

All together we have 113 congregations and mission starts that are divided in to six geographical conferences within our synod. There is much more information at our synod website: <http://www.spas-elca.org>

As part of our synod and as part of our churchwide body, we are able to participate in God's work collectively in ways that we could never do on our own. That is why we allot a percentage of our offering to Christ's ministry that happens in and through our synod and larger denomination. Below is the emblem of the ELCA. The emblem's black outlines are roughhewn. Within the spheres of the orb are smaller crosses (a design sometimes known as the "Jerusalem Cross"), a traditional symbol for the commission to spread the gospel to the whole world. The cross is also at the center of our identity. The emblem is a graphic representation of the ELCA mission statement: Marked by the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world. This emblem reflects the good news of Christ's resurrection.

THANKS FOR ASKING!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

affix label here

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Our:

Open
at 9:30 am

