

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

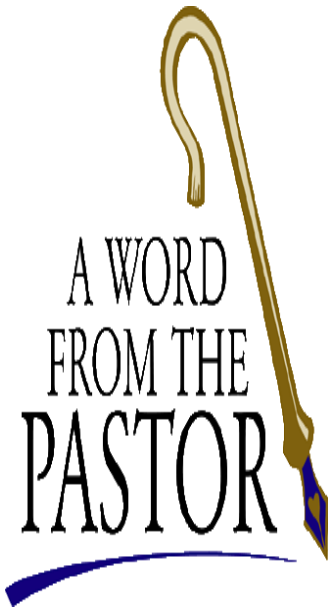
June 2026



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

Matthew 9:35-38

From the Gospel for June 14th



In Matthew 9:35–38, we are given a powerful and compassionate glimpse into the heart of Jesus and the mission of His Church. These verses portray Christ traveling through towns and villages—teaching in synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and affliction. But perhaps most striking is not just what Jesus *does*, but how He

sees.

Matthew tells us that when Jesus looked at the crowds, “He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” This image speaks deeply to our spiritual condition. Without Christ, people are often lost, weary, and searching without direction. Even in our modern world—full of technology, information, and convenience—many still feel isolated, burdened, and spiritually adrift.

Jesus’ response to this reality is not frustration or indifference—it is compassion. The Greek word used here points to a deeply felt, gut-level care, a love that moves a person to action. This compassion led Christ not only to teach and heal, but ultimately to give His life for the salvation of the world.

Then Jesus turns to His disciples and says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” In this statement, Jesus reframes the situation. The world is not simply full of lost people—it is full of opportunity. There is a “harvest”—people ready to hear the Gospel, ready to receive hope, ready to be gathered into the kingdom of God.

This is both an encouragement and a challenge for us as a congregation.

First, it is an encouragement because it reminds us that God is already at work in the world. We are not asked to create faith or manufacture results. Instead, we are called to participate in what God is doing—sharing the message of Christ through our words, our actions, and our presence in the lives of others.

Second, it is a challenge because Jesus is clear: the workers are few. The need for faithful witnesses—ordinary Christians who reflect Christ’s love in everyday life—is great. This calling is not limited to pastors or church leaders. Every baptized believer is part of God’s mission. Whether in our homes, workplaces, schools, or neighborhoods, we are invited to be bearers of Christ’s compassion.

Finally, Jesus gives us a specific instruction: “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.” Before we act, we are called to pray. Prayer aligns our hearts with God’s purposes. It reminds us that the mission belongs to Him, and it is He who equips and sends His people.

As an ELCA congregation, we are uniquely positioned to respond to this call. Through our commitment to nurture faith, serve others, and share Christ’s love, we participate in the ongoing work of the harvest. Consider how God may be calling you—perhaps to reach out to a neighbor, to support a ministry effort, or simply to show kindness and listen with compassion.

Let us take time to pray intentionally:

- Pray for those who feel “harassed and helpless,” that they may encounter Christ’s love.
- Pray for our congregation, that we may reflect Jesus’ compassion in all we do.
- Pray for more workers, including ourselves, to step forward in faith and service.

May we see people as Jesus sees them, love as Jesus loves, and respond with willing hearts. The harvest is plentiful—and by God’s grace, we are part of Christ’s work.

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*

Sunday Scripture Readings

June 7 Hosea 5:15-6:6
 Rom 4:13-25
 Matt 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14 Exodus 19:2-8a
 Rom 5:1-8
 Matt 9:35-10:8

June 21 Jer 20:7-13
Rom 6:1b-11
Matt 10:24-39

June 28 Jer 28:5-9
Rom 6:12-23
Matt 10:40-42

Among Our Own

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

Jerry and Pat Klebs on their 61st wedding anniversary on June 12

Gary and Alice McDougall on their 60th wedding anniversary on June 11

Nick and Susan Kylen on their 59th wedding anniversary on June 24

Steve and Susan Amundson on their 55th wedding anniversary on June 19

Wayne and Gladys Campbell on their 53rd wedding anniversary on June 23

Steve and Virginia Spence on their 35th wedding anniversary on June 8

Jim and Carla Wick on their 35th wedding anniversary on June 15

/Preschool Chatter

Another school year has quickly come and gone. As we have mentioned before, our program numbers were low again this year. That being said, we were grateful to serve 36 children this year. It truly has been a gift to be able to work with preschool children and watch them grow over the past nine months.

May was a busy and exciting month for our students. Our themes for the month included flowers, butterflies, and Summer plans. We had lots of fun hands on activities, including planting/growing zinnias for our moms, watching caterpillars turn into butterflies, fun songs, a special rainbow color day, and lots of outside days. On Thursday May 7 all of our children loaded on the school bus and headed to Carpenter Nature Center. The highlight is always riding on the big bus. We enjoyed the morning learning about colors in nature. The children enjoyed a nature walk while looking for colors, learning about camouflage, petting a live snake, and making a nature sun catcher. We also enjoyed a picnic lunch at the nature center. Of course the best part always is riding on the big bus. On May 21 and 22 we held our end of the year

programs. The children were able to share some of their favorite preschool songs/story with their families, receive their portfolios and diplomas, enjoy a slide show of their school year, and share in a little last day fellowship with friends.

We would really like to thank all the members of St. Philip's church for their prayers, donations, and kind words of support. We greatly appreciate your participation in the ongoing RaiseRight card fundraiser. From July 1st – May 18th we have raised \$2,749.63. We have been able to use that money to cover all costs for our spring field trip to Carpenter Nature center, new toys, special parties, all of our art supplies, and some of our business expenses like our health nurse visit and annual license fee. Thank you so much for your continued support to our little program. In addition to RaiseRight, we also had three Culver's fundraiser nights this year that brought in a total of \$848.65. Thank you to everyone who also supported this fundraiser as well.

We feel so blessed to be able to work with so many young children in such a wonderful setting! We are grateful for the amazing support we receive from the members of St. Philip's. With your support, we are able to continue to offer an exceptional preschool experience for children in our community. This program has a strong reputation of being a great place to go to preschool for over 40 years now and we are grateful to be part of it. For many of our children it is the first academic and religious experience they have had and we are proud to serve them well in both of these areas. Please remember - if you know anyone looking for preschool please be sure to share our information. Thank you for supporting this important ministry of St. Philip's!

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer with family and friends.

Blessings,
Becky and Lorelei
Preschool Co-Directors

Children's Ministries Update

Thank you to all of our wonderful Sunday school and confirmation teachers this past year! They are Jen Williams, Taylor Haskell, Micah Villavicencio, Marjorie Peterson, Bernita Weber, Sophia Villavicencio, Kristian Ronning, and Carlos Villavicencio. You are all such a blessing to the youth of our church and greatly appreciated!

On Sunday, May 3 we celebrated the end of the Sunday school year with outdoor games and activities. It was a beautiful morning that children enjoyed our bounce house, inflatable basketball, giant checkers, chalk, popcorn, and fellowship.



On Sunday, June 14 after we enjoy our outdoor service with the Double Down Daredevils we invite families to come to the playground side of the building to play games, run on the playground and enjoy a time of fellowship with other young families. Please see Becky with any questions.

Save the date!

We will be having our VBS volunteer meetings on either July 11 from 9:30-11:30 or Sunday, July 12 from 10:45-12. Please try to mark one of these days on your calendar if you are volunteering for VBS. More information and details will come out as the dates get closer.

Sunday School Class Greeters

On April 19 Sunday worshipers were greeted by the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade SS class. Students who participated in this service event included Mackenzie, Macey, Callen, Espen, Noah, and Gordon.

Teachers Marjorie Peterson and Bernita Weber launched this event for their students four years ago. The kids are eager to serve and have fun to help in this way.



Sunday School Bulletin Board

Have you noticed this Sunday School bulletin board? This beautiful stained glass window was created by students Mackenzie, Noah, Calvin, Stella, and Espen with the help of Confirmation students Sophia and Madison.



children for an entire year! What an incredible reminder of how God can use us to serve others in meaningful ways.



Youth Ministries Update

Youth Events in May

May was full of exciting youth events and wonderful opportunities for fellowship! Our High School End-of-Year Party was a great way to celebrate the close of another school year together. Students enjoyed spending time with friends, games, food, and lots of laughter. Be sure to look for pictures from the event in the next newsletter!

Confirmation Wrap-Up

Confirmation wrapped up with two memorable weeks of fun and service. We began with an evening at Feed My Starving Children alongside students, family members, and mentors. Together, we packed 128 boxes during our shift, which is enough to feed 76



Our final confirmation gathering was a relaxed outdoor celebration filled with fun activities and great conversations. Students enjoyed making s'mores, playing Gaga ball and corn hole, climbing trees, planting flowers, and simply spending time together. It was a wonderful way to end the year and celebrate all that our students have learned and experienced.



Upcoming June Events

We are excited for two upcoming youth events on June 20th!

High School students are invited to join us for pickleball in the church parking lot from 9:00–11:00 a.m. Come ready for some friendly competition and summer fun!

Middle School students are invited to an evening bonfire and yard games from 8:00–10:00 p.m. We'll enjoy snacks, games, and time together around the fire as we kick off the summer season.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for additional adults to help support our youth events! Volunteering does not mean you have to be “in charge.” The biggest responsibilities are simply having fun, being present with students, participating in activities if you would like, and helping to supervise to ensure everyone stays safe. Having an extra adult or two at events allows us to run activities successfully and helps create a welcoming, supportive environment for all students. Whether you can help occasionally or more regularly, we would love to have you join us. Please reach out if you are interested in volunteering at future youth events!



News from Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly: Justin Grimm Elected!

The Rev. Justin Grimm has been elected to a six-year term as bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod! He currently serves as the synod's director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for congregational vitality, a position he's held since 2015. He previously served as lead pastor at Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann, Mich., after first serving as the mission developer. He is a graduate of Northwestern College, Iowa and Luther Seminary. He was ordained in 2005. Bishop-Elect Grimm will succeed The Rev. Patricia Lull, who is completing her second term as bishop. An installation service will be held Sept. 13.

Pastor Grimm has visited and preached at St. Philip's and we will look forward to hosting him again when his schedule allows. (As an added bonus to his qualifications, he has gone fishing on Pastor Geier's boat!)



The Stature of an Acolyte

St. Philip's Acolytes Deserve Our Thanks. Our wonderful young people who serve as acolytes, set the tone for worship every Sunday. They come down the aisle, robed and intent on what they're about to do. As they light the altar candles and the Christ's candle, worship begins. Their role is equally important as they conclude worship with the extinguishing of the altar candles and bringing the light of the Christ candle out of worship to us in the congregation as we embark into our week, bringing the blessings of Christ's presence with us. Some pairs of acolytes are brother/sister, or maybe twin sisters, and others double as friends. They all do so well and without them worship would lack the reverence that their work as acolytes provides. Thank them when you can.



Pastor Geier, Katie Lindberg, Bishop-elect Grimm, and Council President Dan Strehlow. (Kathy Luedke, our 4th delegate was making connections with other members of the body of Christ.)



2026 Garage & Plant Sale: June 6, 8-3

Sign Up Charts Open - St. Philip's Sale is based on donations of St. Philip's members only. This means we all need to dig deeply for items which will make our shoppers happy. Start now, putting things aside for delivery to the church no earlier than Monday, June 1, beginning at 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. through Thursday. Adult clothing donations close on Wednesday noon. Your participation as a donor, a pre-sale worker, sale day worker and especially as a set up and clean up volunteer is needed and very much appreciated. It's hoped you find a way to participate. Cash donations in any amount, toward expenses are also welcomed. Again, thanks, from the sale leadership and all department heads. This event is supported in part by Thrivent Financial through its Community Action Program.

WELCA NEWS

On April 25, eight women active in St. Philip's WELCA traveled to St. Mark's Lutheran in Circle Pines for a one day convention. St. Philip's WELCA is aligned with both the St. Paul Area Synod and the National ELCA. The work of the ELCA was explained along with its Global ministries. Regional ministries were also presented which helps St. Philip's better understand where its support may be best applied. Eighty six women from St. Paul Synod congregations attended. Camille Nelson was the voting delegate from St. Philip's along with Patty Todnem and Glenda Schnirring, who are members of the Women's Synod governing board. An offering of \$400 which was allocated to Second Harvest Heartland, Jonathan House, (for refugees) plus the national Women of ELCA organization. A quilt made by Darla Kimmes was given to "Safe House", a Lutheran Social Service facility. Gift cards totaling \$400 were donated to the MN Indian Women's Resource Center in Minneapolis. St. Paul Area Synod Bishop Patricia Lull concluded the day with a bible study.



BELL RINGERS

"A BIG ring-a-ding-ding THANK YOU to all the adult and youth bell ringers for a very successful ringing season. Hope to see you all in the fall AND anyone else that would like to ring with us. On May 11 they had their last rehearsal of the season, followed by a pizza party. A great year was had by all.



GIVING AND EXPENSE

2026	2025
April 2026 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$191,964.39	\$177,730.07
April 2026 YTD Capital Fund	
\$105,990.98	\$58,957.80
April 2026 YTD Expenses	
\$227,985.52	\$237,891.60
Net	
\$69,969.85	\$(1203.73)
April 2026 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$109,876.92	\$102,854.78

Stewardship Bits

By Sam Willis

Spring is a wonderful time to pause; to reflect. Flowers blooming; leaves growing; and grass turning green.

Planting in the garden and watching the seedlings emerge, a few days later.

Warm, fresh air (and, of course, in Minnesota, we also have days with cool, spring air – but those are good too.)

Patience. Gratitude. Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Faith.

Reflecting on this theme, two actions come to mind.

I've recently focused more intently on fully observing Sunday as the Sabbath day, by not working, not creating, not organizing, but rather by enjoying: a nice walk, additional fellowship time, longer meal times, the joy of my children's laughter while playing; an unhurried and uninterrupted conversation with my wife, Lorena; unhurried time at the piano; and – especially in this spring season, enjoying the outdoors.

A daily gratitude routine helps me start each day well. Taking some time each day, even if only for one minute, to pause with a deep breath, admire the creation around me, and thank God for His wonderful creation and all of the blessings I've been given; especially my family, and my friends, among others; This practice brings me peace and calm in a chaotic world.

Think: Less transaction-like, and more *relationship*. Less rushing, more patience. Deeper conversations. Unhurried....

Consider slowing down – even for a moment each day – and especially one particular day each week – to rest, reflect, and enjoy fellowship with those most important to you. As Christians, we are commanded to remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Take this opportunity to be present, and enjoy stillness more fully.

Stay rooted in gratitude, and growing in faith.
Christ's service,
Sam Willis

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The 7 pm Wednesday night Bible study group is currently studying 1st and 2nd Corinthians. Anyone interested is warmly welcome to join at any time. The Bible is the text. For the chapter schedule, Zoom link

and a list of possible on-line study helps, please contact Dave Tank or Jennie Thomas.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Director of Children's Choir - The Director of Children's Choir is a person dedicated to the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ and committed to the mission and vision of St. Philip's Lutheran Church. This position works with pastor, and the Worship and Music Ministry Team planning and preparing Children's music for worship services. This is a part time position working up to 5 hours per week. We are looking for a person with choral music background and who loves working with children. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Geier or submit your resume' to him at: pastorgeier@splchastings.org.

DO DAYS NEEDS FLAT SHEETS! As you go through your home looking for things for the garage sale, you may find sheets you no longer need. If they are complete sets, please give them to the garage sale. But what if the bottom sheet is worn out? Do Days needs flat sheets for quilt backs and we can take apart pillow cases and cut them into squares for making quilt tops. Fitted sheets smaller than queen size aren't big enough for backing and often have too much wear to cut into squares. Please don't give us fitted sheets unless they are not part of a set that could be sold and have so little wear they can be cut into strips and squares for tops. The Linen Department at the garage sale would appreciate your holding donations for Do Days until AFTER the garage sale. Starting on Jun 7th, sheet donations for Do Days can be left on the counter under the windows in the East Room. Thank you in advance!

Do Days: Due to conflicts with the Garage sale and VBS, Do Days is shifting to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays for June and July. In August we will return to our previous schedule of meeting on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month. We meet from 1 pm to about 4 pm each session and primarily tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief, but also have people organizing new donations, matching tops with backs, sewing bindings, planning more quilt tops, preparing and cutting fabric, etc. No sewing experience is needed and new people are always welcome! For any questions, please contact Bernita Weber or Jennie Orr Thomas.

New address: Bob and Linda Brommer would like everyone to know of their new address: 20150 Highview Ave Apt 117, Lakeville, MN 55044.

The Fourth of July Parade is Coming!

The Fourth of July Parade will be coming past St. Philip's again this year. St. Philip's would like to have an outreach providing free bottles of water on our front lawn. If you are going to be around on the 4th, could you help with this community event? Watch for the sign up on kiosk as we celebrate our country's 250th Birthday!

Questions? Fellowship Ministry, Camille Nelson



Campfire Conversations Coming This Summer!

"Sabbath as a Source for an Abundant Life!"

We are spending three evenings this summer reflecting on the gift of Sabbath.

Come bring a chair and join our time of guided



conversation, Bible study, and fellowship around our campfire ring. (If it is raining or over 90 degrees, we will plan to move inside.) We will meet from 6:30-7:30. Each conversation is independent of the others, so if you can only make it to one, we'd love to see you. Or if you need to leave early or arrive late, that's okay too!

June 21st at 6:30 – SABBATH: SOMETHING GOD DOES FOR US, NOT SOMETHING WE DO FOR GOD.

July 19th at 6:30 – SABBATH: GOD'S GRACIOUS INTRUSION AND THE PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE.

August 18th at 6:30 – SABBATH: GOD'S SUFFICIENCY AND OUR GENEROSITY.

SAVE THE DATE!

June Summer Outing.

Who: Women and friends of St. Philips

When: June 18, meet in church parking lot at 10:15 to carpool. Leave parking lot at 10:30.

Where: Como Park Conservatory with lunch at Zobota Cafe in the visitor Center. Free entrance to the conservatory, but suggested donation of \$4. Pay for own lunch. Address is 1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul, MN. A sign-up sheet is posted on the kiosk in the narthex in mid May to coordinate rides. Questions: ask Susan Cruse.

St. Philip's Lutheran Church Columbarium

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 (cremains) of our loved ones. Each niche is identified by a granite faceplate inscribed with a person's name, birth date, and death date.

The Columbarium is located east of the church building along Pleasant Drive. The columbarium has 80 niches, five rows and sixteen columns, and includes a peace garden for visiting family and friends. The pricing of the niches is set at three levels, depending on row location. All niches include perpetual care, two brass urns, and engraving on the columbarium faceplate for up to two persons' cremains.

Niches in top two rows are \$2,600

Niches in next two rows are \$2,300

Niches in bottom row are \$2,000

These prices are subject to change without notice.

Brochures and application folders for those who are interested in leasing a niche are available at the welcome center. Let us know if you prefer to have the brochure or application US mailed to you.

For more information, contact Judy Hansen at 612-600-1209.

Announcement for Outdoor Worship:

St. Philip's is hosting a Praise Worship service outdoors on June 14, 2026 at 9:30 AM on the south lawn. The Double Down Daredevils bluegrass band, with our own Mary Ellen Fox as a member, will lead us in music. Bring your lawn chairs and join us in worship and fellowship. Complimentary ice cream treats will be served after the service. In case of rain worship will take place in the sanctuary.

The Worship and Music Ministry Team



Lutheran World Relief

Annual School Supply Drive – Another school year finished. Time to start planning for another amazing LWR school supply drive! We need to order backpacks soon, so are hoping for your generous donations again. Labeled envelopes are available on the kiosk and can be placed in the locked drop box by the Multi-Purpose room. Many thanks!

Jan Kochendorfer

Worship & Ministry: The Worship and Music Ministry Team wishes to acknowledge two very faithful people who have been serving St. Philips for over 20 years as Altar Guild leaders. Lois Wroge and Judy Liffrog were approached by Kathy Stockman who invited them to her home to "show them the ropes," and they have continued their work ever since.

So what is it they do? They change the paraments and banners to fit the church seasons. That is 14 times per year! They also change banners and additional items for baptisms, funerals, Advent, Lent and Easter. If you watched them do it, you would see rulers being used to make sure that all is precisely and evenly in place. They also are responsible for the candles which need to be filled with liquid wax. Wicks are checked to make sure the flames burn evenly. Communion supplies (wine, juice, and wafers) are ordered and ready for each service. Other orders they place are for the Christmas and Easter flowers that they adorn our sanctuary with for those special services. There is a team of people who help with preparing communion trays and cleaning them up after each service. Lois and Judy schedule them.

They speak very highly of the parament storage system designed by Bruce Arndtson. Paraments are hung on PC pipes which prevent creases and wrinkles. It is color coded, and covered by a heavy sheet avoiding dust accumulation. The entire system

hangs on a wall taking up very little storage space. A record book is kept which helps to predict how many wine trays to prepare for various services. One of their worries is to suddenly realize that attendance is greater than expected (a good thing!) but requires one of them to sneak into the sacristy to quickly prepare another tray. They did admit that the first time they hung a new banner, they hung it upside down! As you can tell, they have a great partnership, both meticulous, dedicated, and complete with a sense of humor and respect for each other. We are so grateful for them and all they do.



2026 Church Council Meets Monthly to Enact Business

Pictured are eight of ten St. Philip's church council members. St. Philip's council meets the third Monday of every month to make thoughtful decisions on the well-being and ministries of St. Philip's. Back row, left, by name and ministry assignment, Jen Klos, (Faith Formation) Marita Gathje, (Worship & Music) Sammi Warnecke, (Secretary), Pastor Geier, Trish Bremer (Stewardship and Fellowship), Front row: Dolores Pemble, (Treasurer) Dan Strehlow, (President), John Nye (Communications/Marketing/Technology) Not pictured: Natalie Carda, (Human Resources) and Judy Hansen, (Vice President and Buildings & Grounds). Thanks to all of them for their service.



ST. PHILIP'S STAFF*Gregory Geier, Pastor**pastorgeier@splchastings.org**Noreen Swanson, Organist**swansonhastings@centurylink.net**LuAnn Roiger, Handbell Choir Director**lroiger58@gmail.com**Meg Rein, Director of Contemporary Worship**meganr@splchastings.org**John Diischer, Sound Board Technician**johnd@splchastings.org**Becky Kaphing, Director of Children's Ministries**beckyk@splchastings.org**Lydia Cummings, Director of Youth Ministries**lydiac@splchastings.org**Dawn Owen, Office Administrator**dawno@splchastings.org**Becky Kaphing, Preschool Co-Director**preschool@splchastings.org**Lorelei Rein, Preschool Co-Director**preschool@splchastings.org**Kari Vortherms, Assistant Teacher**preschool@splchastings.org***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)

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