

The Philippian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Philip's Lutheran Church of Hastings, Minnesota

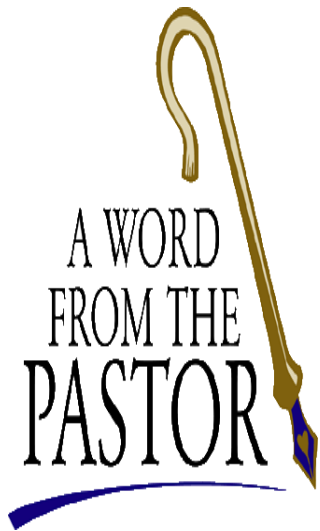
Come and Worship...Come and Serve...Come and Learn...Come as you are
...Philip said to him, "Come and see" John 1:46

August 2026



Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.”

Romans 12:9-13



In a world that often feels divided, hurried, and uncertain, the Apostle Paul offers the church a simple yet profound vision of Christian community:

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”(Romans 12:9-10)

These verses remind us that faith is not merely something we believe. Faith is something we live. After spending much of his letter to the Romans describing God's grace and mercy, Paul turns to the practical question: What does a life shaped by Christ look like?

The answer begins with genuine love.

The love Paul describes is not sentimental or superficial. It is a love that seeks the good of others, even when it is inconvenient. It is a love that honors neighbors, forgives mistakes, and reaches across differences. Genuine love reflects the love God has already shown us in Christ.

Paul continues: “Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”

These words speak powerfully to the realities of everyday life. We all experience seasons of joy and seasons of struggle. Hope can seem distant when illness, grief, conflict, or uncertainty enter our lives. Yet Paul encourages believers to hold fast to God's promises. Christian hope is not wishful thinking; it is confidence that God remains faithful, even when circumstances are difficult.

Patience in suffering and perseverance in prayer do not mean pretending everything is fine. Rather, they remind us that we never walk alone. God meets us in our challenges, and the community of faith surrounds us with support, encouragement, and love.

Finally, Paul writes: “Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” (Romans 12:13)

Hospitality is one of the clearest ways the church embodies the gospel. Whether through welcoming a visitor on Sunday morning, bringing a meal to someone in need, volunteering in the community, or offering a listening ear, we become Christ's hands and feet in the world.

At its heart, this passage invites us to be a congregation marked by authentic love, steadfast hope, and generous hospitality. These are not extraordinary acts reserved for a few saints. They are daily practices available to all of us.

As we gather for worship, fellowship, and service in the weeks ahead, may we hear Paul's encouragement anew. Let us love genuinely, serve joyfully, pray faithfully, and welcome others warmly. In doing so, we bear witness to the transforming grace of God and help build a community where all can experience Christ's love.

One of the strengths of this passage is that it is intensely practical. Paul is not describing extraordinary acts of faith, but everyday habits that shape Christian discipleship.

This week, choose one practice from Romans 12:9-13 and intentionally live it out each day. Write a note of encouragement, offer help to a neighbor, spend extra time in prayer, or welcome someone new. Small acts of faithfulness often become powerful witnesses to Christ's love. As members of Christ's body, we are called not only to believe these words, but to embody them. Through genuine love, persistent hope, faithful prayer, and generous hospitality, we become living signs of God's grace in the world.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier

Sunday Scripture Readings

Aug 2	Isa 55:1-5 Rom 9:1-5 Matt 14:13-21
Aug 9	1 Kings 19:9-18 Rom 10:5-15 Matt 14:22-33
Aug 16	Isa 56:1,6-8 Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matt 15:[10-20], 21-28
Aug 23	Isa 51:1-6 Rom 12:1-8 Matt 16:13-20
Aug 30	Jer 15:15-21 Rom 12:9-21 Matt 16:21-28

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+...

Gary and Marge Evenson on their 68th wedding anniversary on August 16
Earl and Kathy Stockman on their 62nd wedding anniversary on August 22
Bob and Linda Brommer on their 62nd wedding anniversary on August 29
Paul and Karen Swanstrom on their 61st wedding anniversary on August 14
James and Jeanne Cowee on their 58th wedding anniversary on August 31
Art and Kathy Luedtke on their 58th wedding anniversary on August 31
Farid and Diane Saed on their 57th wedding anniversary on August 16
Steve and Carol Tobin on their 57th wedding anniversary on August 23
John and Nancy Goldsmith on their 54th wedding anniversary on August 12
Jerome and Eunice Jilk on their 51st wedding anniversary on August 16
Al and Gail Carstensen on their 45th wedding anniversary on August 8th
Chris and Nikki Glade on their 30th wedding anniversary on August 10

Todd and Jennifer Herber on their 30th wedding anniversary on August 3

Craig and Amy Mares on their 25th wedding anniversary on August 5

Jeffrey and Brenda Rossow on their 25th wedding anniversary on August 24

Scott and Tiffany Stewart on their 20th wedding anniversary on August 12

Matt and Kelsey Wormley on their 20th wedding anniversary on August 4

Children's Ministries Update

Two big save the dates are coming in early September, but you'll want to mark your calendars now.

- 1) Opening the bible class for all second graders and anyone in third/fourth grade that has not gotten their elementary bibles. This class will be on September 12 at 9:30. This is a fun class with Pastor that teaches your child about the new bibles they will be receiving on Rally Day September 13, during our worship service.
- 2) Rally Day will be September 13. This is a wonderful Sunday to kick off our programming year that includes presentation of preschool and elementary bibles, blessing of the backpacks, games/inflatables outside, helping pack world relief backpacks and more.

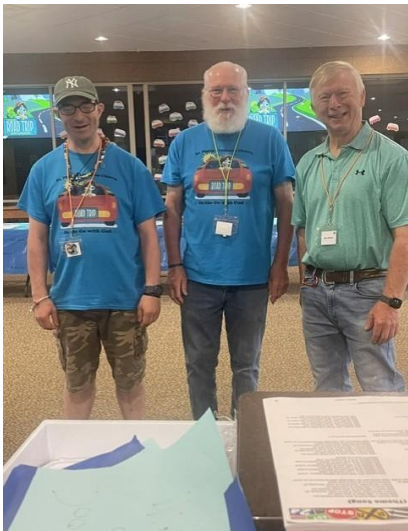
If you have a preschooler or child eligible for an elementary bible, please contact Becky and let her know so we can get the bibles ordered. Thanks.

On a Road Trip with God VBS 2026

The week of July 13-16 we welcomed 88 preschool-fifth graders into our church to go on a road trip with God! Our bible verse for the week was "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). Through Bible stories we learned that God is with on every journey we take through times of joy or sadness, when we go off course, when we are joyful, near or far. He really is with us always. The children enjoyed days filled with song, stories, snacks, crafts, and games. To see them learning and laughing together was so much! With our 88 children we also had 50 teen/adults that helped. Some for one or two days and some for the whole week. We are so thankful that so many participated in this wonderful ministry. Then on Sunday, July 19, children came and helped Pastor during sermon time by sharing stories and songs they learned over the week.







SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE! We are asking for school supply donations that we can send to Lutheran World Relief for students in need. We also need volunteers on Sunday, September 13 to assemble the backpacks! Questions, please contact Jan Kochendorfer. Each kit needs:

- **FOUR** spiral notebooks of 70 pages of EITHER wide or college ruled paper
- **ONE** 30-centimeter ruler (with inches on one side, but they **MUST** have centimeters on the other!)
- **ONE** pencil sharpener with shavings catcher
- **ONE** pair blunt children's scissors
- **FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- **FIVE** black and/or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- **ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons (Crayola is recommended since they handle the heat of shipping better than most other brands)
- **ONE** 2.5" pink eraser

Thank you for supporting this great ministry! If you prefer that we shop for you, donation envelopes are in a plastic sleeve on the kiosk. Envelopes can be placed in the lock box outside the multipurpose room. Extra lists are located on the Welcome Center.

Youth Ministries Update

Survivor Challenge: Middle School Students Outwit, Outplay, Outlast

Eight middle school students put their skills to the test on July 10 during our Survivor-themed youth event! Throughout the afternoon, students competed in a variety of fun and challenging activities that tested their teamwork, perseverance, and problem-solving abilities. After facing every challenge, each participant earned the title of "Survivor."

Our focus for the day was **Philippians 4:13**: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* As students encouraged one another through each challenge, they were reminded that our greatest strength comes from Christ. It was an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and faith, and we

are grateful to everyone who helped make the event a success! A special thanks to Steve Wolverton and Jennie Orr Thomas for spending their afternoon with us!



August Youth Events: Don't Miss the Fun!

Summer fun continues in August with two exciting youth events!

Middle school students are invited to our **2nd Annual Ping Pong Tournament** on **Sunday, August 16, from 2:00–4:00 PM**. Whether you're a seasoned player or picking up a paddle for the first time, come ready for an afternoon of friendly competition and lots of laughs.

High school students won't want to miss our **Amazing Race** competition on **Saturday, August 8, from 5:00–7:00 PM**. Teams will race through a series of exciting challenges that require communication, teamwork, and quick thinking.

Both events are packed with energy, fun, and opportunities to connect with friends. If you're interested in volunteering for either event, please sign

up on the bulletin board outside the Youth Room or contact Lydia. We'd love to have you join us!

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering Information Meetings

The countdown to the **2027 ELCA Youth Gathering** has begun! The Gathering will take place in **Minneapolis, June 28–July 2, 2027**, and students entering **grades 8–12 this fall** are invited to join us for this incredible opportunity to grow in faith, serve others, and connect with thousands of Lutheran youth from across the country.

Families interested in learning more are encouraged to attend one of our informational meetings in the Youth Room:

- **Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 PM**

Students should attend with a parent or guardian if possible. If you are unable to make either meeting but would like more information, please contact Lydia at lydiac@splchastings.org. To learn more about the ELCA Youth Gathering, visit elca.org/gathering.

Confirmation Faith Statements

Parents of students entering 9th and 10th grades who have completed confirmation classes, it's time to begin working on Faith Statements! A Faith Statement is an opportunity for students to reflect on their faith journey, share a Bible verse that is meaningful to them, and express how God has been at work in their lives.

Students will meet with Pastor or Lydia to review their completed statement and then present it during a worship service. All Faith Statements should be presented by the end of September in preparation for Confirmation Sunday on October 25. With a large confirmation class this year, we encourage families to begin working on Faith Statements as soon as possible and to schedule a presentation date early.

If your student needs help getting started, choosing a Bible verse, or organizing their thoughts, we are happy to assist. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Lydia with any questions or to schedule your student's Faith Statement presentation.

Faith Statements from Greta and Violet Sieben

During July, the congregation was treated to the well written faith statements of twin sisters, Greta and Violet Sieben. They clearly stated their favorite Bible verses and why they had meaning for them. They also reflected on their many St. Philip's activities which have made them the ever-present worshippers they are. Greta and Violet are also regular acolytes for Sunday worship. They will be confirmed in late fall.



KEEPING CONNECTED

SHARON MOODY

A lot of you probably see me in church and don't really know my story. So here is a brief summary of my background. I like to refer to myself as an "I-wegian". I was born in Ames, Iowa and lived with my parents and older two brothers on a farm on the edge of McCallsburg. We were members of Bethany Lutheran Church in that very small town. We had many relatives close by, including my 38 first cousins. Most of my very Norwegian relatives still live in central Iowa. When I was seven, my family relocated to a farm near Stewartville, MN, just south of Rochester. This is where I grew up and graduated from high school. We were active members at Zion Lutheran Church. My senior year I met my husband, Larry, through a mutual friend. Following high school, I attended one year at Luther College. Larry spent two years in the Army, including one year in Viet Nam. As was more common in those days, we married very young, then moved to St. Paul for one year. In 1972 we relocated to



Hastings. Larry worked at 3M for many years and I was a stay-at-home mom for our three kids. I loved taking care of our large garden and sewing clothes for the kids. Eventually I started taking night classes at Inver Hills, where I obtained my Associate Degree in accounting. My working career began in 1981, with almost all of my jobs being in the legal field. I worked in Hastings for 13 years, then in Minneapolis for 20 years. My last position was as a Trust and Estate Planning paralegal. I loved the work, the commute not as much. I retired in 2014 and now enjoy being able to plan my own days.

We have enjoyed camping for many years, at first pulling a small camper to various campgrounds. For the last 25 years, we have enjoyed having a permanent site near Moose Lake. We also enjoy traveling, and have been fortunate enough to see many parts of the world. My hobbies include reading and doing jigsaw puzzles. When I was younger, I was a decent piano player, even filling in for the organist at Zion. I still love music, but don't play very often.

When Larry and I were young and had very long hair, we actually were members of a rock band for a couple years, and played at some establishments around the Twin Cities and also for weddings and other private events. Our family has grown over the years. Our oldest daughter, Kris, still lives in the Hastings area.

Our son, Ben, lives near Phoenix, AZ. Our youngest daughter, Jess, lives near Fort Worth, TX. That makes for nice places to visit in the wintertime. We have eight grandchildren, ranging in age from 15 to 30, who are spread out around the country. We were recently thrilled to become great-grandparents of a baby girl, who happily lives nearby. Such fun!! We joined St. Philip's in 1972 when we first moved to town. Our children grew up in the church and were confirmed at St. Philip's. In my younger days, I was active teaching Sunday School and also led the youth choir for a couple years. After our children left home, I was an inactive member for a while, but eventually found my way back to the welcoming community at St. Philip's. My favorite things to participate in at St. Philip's are helping out with the garage sale and making lefsa in the fall. In the future, I hope to continue being of service and making more connections with fellow members at St. Philip's.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

St Philips continues to save lives by holding a blood drive twice a year. We are very proud to be recognized as a Preferred donation center due to our successful drives averaging over 30 units of blood at each drive. Our next blood drive is Thursday, August 20 from Noon until 6pm. Sign up to donate at www.redcross.org.

Please contact Katy Lindberg or sign up on the Kiosk if you would like to help! 651-341-2411.

GARAGE SALE NEWS

Exciting things are already happening for Garage Sale 2027! While the sale is still months away, early planning has begun for this much-loved St. Philip's tradition. The date will be Saturday, June 12, 2027!

Over the years, our garage sale has grown into a wonderful outreach to the community and a joyful social event that brings many people together. Its continued success is thanks to the generous time, energy, and teamwork of so many volunteers. As the sale continues to grow, we are delighted to welcome additional volunteers who have stepped forward to help lead the way. Deborah Dreher will continue to head the Garage Sale team, joined by Natalie Carda and Dolores Pemble. The team is already looking back at the 2026 sale, celebrating what went well, and organizing responsibilities for the year ahead. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Deborah, Natalie, or Dolores. **Thank you for helping keep this wonderful garage sale tradition thriving—we are looking forward to another great year!**

A BIG thank you to the following people for their help at the Plant Sale this year. A lot of heavy work is required throughout the week. We estimate that well over a ton of soil and organic matter was carried, carted, loaded and toted, throughout the week. It wouldn't have been possible without help from these folks: Camille Johnson-Oster, Paul Swanstrom, Bob Wellemeyer, Steve Wolverton, Richard Beatty, Matt Larson, Julie Larson, Sue Karnick, Amy Geier, Natalie Carda, Jan Misegades, Linda Ask, Owen Ball, Bruce Arndtson, and David Weisser. Thank you, Geneva Weisser.

THANK YOU!

-A SPECIAL THANK YOU from Al Carstensen: To everyone for all of the cards, letters, prayers and visits while I was in St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, and to Pastor Geier for all of his visits and phone calls. I really

appreciate everyone's kindness and concern to help get me through this difficult time.

-To my St. Philip's Family, thanks to all the people for the cards, phone calls and prayers during the long recovery from my heart valve surgery and other health issues. I especially thank Pastor Geier for his phone calls and visit to United Hospital. I appreciate your concern and thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Gary Evenson.

Grief Support

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 September 2 and December 2.

STEWARDSHIP BITS

St. Philip's continues to live out its Stewardship theme for 2026, "Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Faith" as it enjoys the abundance of blooming hydrangea on its 15th St. side. The abundance of growth and good health in this floral stretch beautifies our church grounds so resoundingly. Jan and Neil Misegades are the caretakers of the hydrangea throughout the year. Stewardship is a combination of time, talent and treasurer which is demonstrated so clearly through the hydrangea display. We remain "Rooted in Gratitude", also, in the highly successful Vacation Bible School week St. Philip's had in mid July. Eighty-six students and forty-five St. Philip's volunteers brought Jesus into the lives of each other and all the young people in attendance. Becky Kaphing is to be thanked for her lead role in this very worthy mission.



CELEBRATING JULY 4TH

As a 45 minute parade passed by St. Philip's on July 4, St. Philip's council decided to hand out bottles of water to parade watchers. Making friends and showing hospitality proved to be well received. Three

hundred and seventy-five bottles were distributed by St. Philip's volunteers.

Pam & Kent Hoffman, Steve Wolverton, and Dave & Dolores Pemble arranged for people to donate water for the table which they set up and staffed. The lovely sign overhead was ordered by President Dan Strehlow for the occasion. Additional holiday favors were handed out along with the water. Additional volunteers who took water to parade watchers were Darla Kimmes, Patty Todnem, Pam Hoffman, & Kathy Boron. The Fellowship Ministry Team, chaired by Camille Nelson oversaw the project.

St. Philip's charter member Margaret Goderstad (right) rode in the parade on one of the Rotary Club's powered tricycles.



Pie & Ice Cream, Outdoor Concert, at Historic LeDuc, August 30, 6 p.m. St. Philip's will again provide homemade pies and ice cream to the attendees of the Sunday night free outdoor concerts which happen in the apple orchard of Historic LeDuc every Sunday in August. St. Philip's Sunday is August 30, with music beginning at 6pm. If weather is bad the concert is in the Episcopal Church on Vermillion St. Providing music will be St. Philip's well known group, "The Double Down Daredevils". Proceeds

from this event help support St. Philip's annual financial commitment to Lutheran Social Service of MN. A sign up sheet will be on the kiosk in August for 20 pies, and one pan of brownies. Coffee and ice cream are also served. Other volunteering will be to set up serving tables, scoop ice cream and be a cashier. See Glenda Schnirring with questions.

GIVING AND EXPENSE	
2026	2025
June 2026 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$266,926.02	\$258,141.60
June 2026 YTD Capital Fund	
\$123,486.47	\$82,017.67
June 2026 YTD Expenses	
\$334,072.11	\$345,320.28
Net	
\$56,340.38	\$(5,161.01)
June 2026 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$50,576.61	\$49,077.35

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Our 1st and 2nd Corinthians study concludes the first Wednesday in August. Starting August 12, we will be studying the first section of Psalm (Psalm 1-41) for the next 3 months or so. We currently have 5 individuals and 2 couples regularly participating, but we'd love to fill our screens with more people interested in discussing what God's word means for us today. Consider joining us any time at 7 pm on Wednesdays from the comfort of wherever you have an internet connection! Contact Dave Tank or Jennie Thomas via their contact information in the church directory for the Zoom link, schedule and suggested resources.

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.



Final Summer Campfire Conversation on August 16th! “Sabbath as a Source for an Abundant Life!”

In June we talked about how Sabbath was something that God did and does for us rather than something we “have to” do for God. In July we discussed how Sabbath is all about seeing our God as a liberator who frees and blesses us and how the theme of justice for the oppressed is woven into the very heart of Sabbath.

On August 16 we will have our final summer meeting of fellowship and consider how “keep the Sabbath” is connected to generosity as well as the ideas of worship and rest.

So 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.

August 16 at 6:30 – SABBATH: GOD’S SUFFICIENCY AND OUR GENEROSITY

BELLS

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. The YouthPhil Ringers and JoyPhil Ringers will start bell rehearsals for the coming year on Monday, September 14. YouthPhil Ringers start at 6:15pm followed by JoyPhil Ringers at 7:00pm. Hope to see you then!! LuAnn Roiger, Bell Director.

ATTENTION ALL WANT-TO-BE BELL RINGERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you have always wanted to try to ring a bell or are just curious about bell ringing, I have a unique

opportunity for you. On Saturday, September 12 from 1:00 to 3:00 I will have a workshop on bell ringing for anyone who is curious. Any age! We will learn about bell ringing together and we will ring some music during worship on Rally Sunday, September 13. That's it....no further obligation to ring again, just come to the workshop and ring on Sunday morning to welcome everyone back to the fall church programs. If you have any questions, you can call me. LuAnn Roiger, Bell Director
Home: 651-437-2730, Cell: 651-341-9299

MARY FISCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

We congratulate Linnea Ronning as the winner of the 2026 Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship. She received the \$2,000 award for her studies at St. Olaf College. In addition, the Fischer family awarded a \$250 scholarship to Emily Wormley. All applicants showed that service to God and community are alive and well at St. Philip's. Taking those gifts out into the world away from our church is a gift worth treasuring.



Matthew and Erin Williams on their new baby girl, Eliette Leigh Williams, born July 13.

ST. PHILIP’S STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor
pastorgeier@splchastings.org
Noreen Swanson, Organist
swansonhastings@centurylink.net
LuAnn Roiger, Handbell Choir Director
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Meg Rein, Director of Contemporary Worship
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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)

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