

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

September 2026



DEAR GOD,

Bless this backpack
and the child who
carries it. Keep them
safe, fill them with
courage, and
surround
them with
Your love.

Amen.



Sept 8 – First day of Preschool (T-Th)

Sept 9 – First day of Preschool
(M-W-F)

-6:45 pm - Confirmation

Sept 12 – 9:30 am Opening the Bible
Class

-7:00 pm - Midnight - MS Lock-in

Sept 13 – Rally Day/God's Work Our
Hands

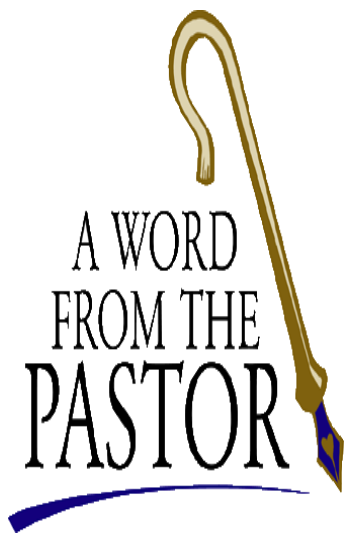
Sept 20 – 10:40 am Sunday School
Begins

Sept 27 – 8-10 pm HS Laser Tag

"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: "be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

Philippians 2:1-4

From the Epistle Lesson for September 22



As a new ministry year begins, congregations across the nation are gathering once again for Sunday school, confirmation, youth activities, bell and choir rehearsals, Bible studies, and service projects. September brings a sense of fresh beginnings, renewed relationships, and new opportunities to grow

together in faith. Paul's words to the Philippians offer a timely reminder of how God calls us to live as a community of believers:

"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: "be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

As students return to classrooms and families settle into new routines, it is easy to become focused on schedules, commitments, fall sports and activities and the many demands on our time. Yet Paul invites us to begin not with ourselves, but with Christ. Because we have received encouragement, love, forgiveness, and grace from Jesus, we are equipped to extend those same gifts to one another.

This passage speaks beautifully to the life of a congregation beginning a new program year. Sunday school teachers, confirmation guides, musicians, council members, volunteers, parents, and students all bring unique gifts. Together we form the body of Christ. Our ministries flourish when we listen to one another, encourage one another, and work together with a common purpose: sharing God's love.

For our children and youth, Philippians 2 offers an important lesson. Faith formation is about more than learning Bible stories or memorizing catechism passages. It is about learning to follow Jesus in daily life. When children welcome a new classmate, when confirmation students support each other through challenges, or when families serve together in the community, they are putting these verses into practice.

Minnesotans understand the importance of community. We know the value of neighbors helping neighbors through difficult winters, celebrations, and times of need. As followers of Christ, we are called to build that same spirit of care within the church. Paul reminds us to look beyond our own concerns and notice the needs of others. A kind word, a welcoming smile, a willingness to lend a hand, or an invitation to participate can make all the difference.

As we begin this new season of ministry, may Philippians 2:1-4 guide our life together. Let us approach each gathering with humility, gratitude, and a desire to serve. Let us encourage our children, support our youth, and welcome all who come through our doors. Most importantly, let us keep our eyes fixed on Christ, whose love unites us and whose example teaches us how to care for one another.

May God bless our Sunday school classes, confirmation ministry, fellowship activities, and every opportunity we have to grow in faith together this year. Let us step into September with joyful hearts, ready to learn, serve, and share the love of Christ.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Geier

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sept 6	Ezek	33:7-11
	Rom	13:8-14
	Matt	18:15-20
Sept 13	Gen	50:15-21
	Rom	14:1-12
	Matt	18:21-35
Sept 20	Jonah	3:10-4:11
	Phil	1:21-30
	Matt	20:1-16
Sept 27	Ezek	18:1-4, 25-32
	Phil	2:1-13
	Matt	21:23-32

Among Our Own

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

Edward and Jonlee Brown on their 55th wedding anniversary on September 4

Jay and Becky Raimann on their 53rd wedding anniversary on September 15

Kent and Pam Hoffman on their 52nd wedding anniversary on September 27

Daniel and Chey Holm on their 25th wedding anniversary on September 15

Trevor and Brianna Wagner on their 10th wedding anniversary on September 10

Justin and Emily King on their 5th wedding anniversary on September 18

Children's Ministries Update

Sunday School registration is now open. Forms can be found on the youth ministry board which is by the fellowship hall. Sunday School is offered for children ages three (and potty trained)-5th grade. Classes start September 20 and run from 10:40-11:30 am. Please reach out to Becky at beckyk@splchastings.org with any questions. Please note that we do need a parent/guardian to stay at church during Sunday School in case anything occurs during class with which we need help.



Opening the Bible Class

Opening the Bible Class will be September 12 from 9:30-11:00. This class is for our second graders (and older if you have not received an elementary bible yet). This gives students a chance to explore and learn about their new bible that they will get on Rally Day (September 13) during service. Please let Becky or Pastor know if you plan on attending class or if you can't make it to class but still want to get a bible on Rally Day.

Preschool Bibles

Preschool Bibles along with Elementary Bibles will be handed out during our Rally Day service on September 13. If you have not already done so please let Becky know if your child plans on attending/receiving their Preschool Bible that day so we can be sure to have enough.

Rally Day

Join us on Sunday September 13 for Rally Day to kick off the new school year. During service we will have a blessing of the backpacks (be sure to bring your backpack), presentation of preschool and Elementary Bibles, outdoor games/activities, packing school supply backpacks, and snacks. It's a fun day to get everyone back together and kick off our programming year.

If anyone is able to help come to church at 8:30 and help set up the outdoor inflatables and games that would be great. Many hands make light work 😊. Email beckyk@splchastings.org if you can help.

Youth Ministries Update

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:

- **Sunday, September 6 at 10:30 AM**
- **Thursday, September 17 at 7 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 get in touch with Lydia at lydiac@splchastings.org. Scan the QR code to sign up for The Gathering! Registration opens in October! To learn more about the ELCA Youth Gathering, visit elca.org/gathering.



Youth Events

September is bringing lots of fun for our youth! **Middle School students** are invited to a **Lock-In on September 12 from 7:00 PM–midnight**. We'll eat pizza, play games like hide-and-seek and Sardines, enjoy laser tag, and more! Comfy clothes or pajamas are encouraged. **Please RSVP by September 5.**

High School students will have a **Laser Tag Night on September 27 from 8:00–10:00 PM**. Please **RSVP by September 20.**

All youth events are posted on the bulletin board outside the Youth Room and in the GroupMe app. Families are encouraged to RSVP for every event; it helps us purchase supplies, plan activities, and recruit enough volunteers. **Beginning in September, events may be canceled if we don't have enough RSVPs by the day before.** We don't like to cancel, but we want to be respectful of everyone's busy schedules.

Don't use GroupMe? No problem! You can always RSVP by emailing Lydia at lydiac@splchastings.org.

We have a great year of youth activities planned, and we can't wait to see you there!

Youth Emergency Contact Forms

Parents, it's time to update your student's emergency contact information for the upcoming year! Simply scan the QR code to complete the short form or go to <https://forms.gle/7enMndGMdnvsJtU18>. If you have more than one student in grades 5–12, you only need to submit one form. Please remember that **all**

students and guests participating in St. Philip's youth events must have a completed emergency contact form on file. Thank you for helping us keep our youth safe!



Confirmation is Back!

We're excited to kick off another year of Confirmation! **Confirmation Orientation will be Wednesday, September 2 at 6:45 PM** for students entering grades 6–8. Students and their families are encouraged to attend as we talk about what to expect this year, hand out Bibles, sign up for and practice acolyte duties, and answer any questions.

Regular Confirmation classes begin **Wednesday, September 9, from 6:45–7:45 PM**. We'll also continue our **Early Birds fellowship time beginning at 6:00 PM** each Wednesday we have class. This is a great opportunity for students to grab a snack, spend time with friends, and connect before class begins.

We'll also begin collecting **snack donations** for Early Birds on September 2nd. A whiteboard outside the Youth Room will list some of our most popular snack items. If you'd like to donate, take a paper from the board and bring the item whenever you have a chance. Donations can be dropped off in Lydia's office or placed in the Youth Room.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our congregation, **we had enough snack donations last year for the entire school year!** Thank you for helping make Early Birds a welcoming and fun part of Confirmation each week. We're looking forward to another great year!

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.



“OPENING THE BIBLE”

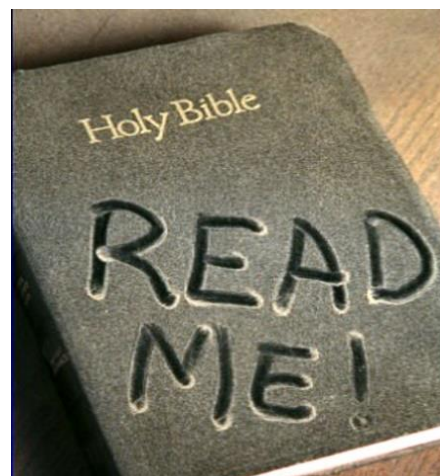
Class for Second and Third Graders and their Parents on Saturday, September 12th!

On Saturday, September 12th, second and third graders and their parents are invited to participate in a morning of fun that will introduce the Bible and help them to learn why and how to read Scripture. We will gather at 9:30 am and should finish before lunch time.

On Rally Day Sunday, September 13th the children will be awarded Bibles during worship. Our WELCA at St. Philip's has generously provided these Bibles that we pray will continue to nurture them throughout their lives. This event serves as the formal beginning of our confirmation program and is a way for families and the whole church to celebrate together!

During our time together, we will also go over our confirmation program and how St. Philip's Lutheran Church seeks to nurture our children and their parents on their faith journeys. We look forward to learning and growing together.

Please call the church office if you have a child in the second grade (or an older child who has not yet received a Bible) to let us know if your family will be participating!



Help Us Prepare Confirmation Stoles

We need a few extra hands to help prepare felt kits for our Confirmation students! This is an easy project; cut the felt colors to the approximate size needed for each symbol. Students will do the detailed cutting themselves. **If you can cut, you can help!** Felt and directions will be available in the Narthex beginning **September 20**. Stop by whenever you have a few minutes and help us get these kits ready!

A New Way to Support Our Youth!

We're starting our fundraising early as we look ahead to sending students to **camp and the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering!** Our new **Envelope Wall** is a fun way to support our youth, with giving options both big and small. Envelopes will be numbered **1–100**, and you simply donate the amount shown on the envelope you choose. For example, envelope #20 = a \$20 donation. **Look for the Envelope Wall beginning September 13!** Thank you for helping make these opportunities possible for our students!

Interested in Youth Fundraising?

Does your student hope to attend **camp or the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering?** Families with students interested in participating are invited to sign up on the **kiosk or email Lydia** at lydiac@splchastings.org so we can include you in our fundraising plans for the year. We have some great fundraising opportunities coming up, and we're excited to work together toward our financial goals!

Faith Statements

Faith Statements continued to be a part of worship during August. These young people will be confirmed later in the fall. Mentors, teachers and Pastor Geier have worked to prepare them for that special day.



Brock Lundstrom

Brock chose as his Confirmation verse, Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go". Brock sees this verse as connecting to his daily life, especially in hard situations. He loves sports and is active in two of them at this time. He also loves the outdoors a lot, and feels God's presence while being outside. After introducing his family to the congregation he thanked his mentors, Dan Strehlow and Denny Kohn. He concluded by admitting he will not be able to meet all challenges himself but with God, all is possible.



Owen Tireman

Owen is proudly pictured with his mentor, Bruce Arndtson. Owen chose Joshua 1:9 as his Confirmation verse. He stated that wherever he will go, God will be with him, giving him strength. He expects scary times and knows God will then be with

him. Owen enjoys water sports for his recreation. He introduced the congregation to his family and thanked the time given to him by his mentor, Bruce Arndtson.



Madison Stewart

Madison recognized her family and the congregation who have been her strength during her time of preparation. She knows God has been with her through moments in her life and that as she looks to the future her trust is that God will be with her throughout her life. She chose Isaiah 40:28 as her confirmation verse.



Parker Perseke

Parker chose to begin his talk by describing the long family history his family has with St. Philip's, going back to the membership of his grandparents, his parent's marriage, their confirmation, and his own baptism. Parker has a passion for sports and works to give balance to academics and sports. He declared the support of his family in this struggle and knows God is there for him in whatever path his life takes him. He remains committed to continue his learning after confirmation. Parker's confirmation Bible verse is Proverbs 16:3.



Tor Ronning

Tor gave testimony to his confirmation verse from Romans 8:28, knowing that God works for good with those who love Him. Tor likes sports a lot naming skiing and golf as what he enjoys today. Learning in confirmation classes from his father-teacher Kristian Ronning, and Carlos Villavicencio that the Bible is his sword, and that Jesus loves him. Tor also thanked his mentors, and offered some humor by saying that if his dad thought he had not paid full attention during their church class, he would do a review in the car on the way home. Tor promised his continuing activity at St. Philip's in ways that he is able.

Welcome New Members

On August 2, 2026, St. Philip's received and welcomed three new member-households into its congregation. Pastor Geier presided in a formal exchange of promises during the worship hour between the congregation and their new sisters in Christ. Following the worship hour the Fellowship committee provided a reception of special treats, gift bags and a time of fellowship for all to meet their new members.



Barb Hayne

Barb has lived in Hastings since 2009. She was born in St. Paul, moved around often with most of her years in the metro area. Barb attended University of Wisconsin-Stout briefly in 1991, and has been in the

business office of Health Partners for twenty years. As for hobbies, she's been remodeling her house recently, but also enjoys parks, walking trails, and reading. Barb is the mother of two children, a son 28, and a daughter 26. As for how Barb came to St. Philip's, she had first gone to a mass in Miesville with her son, which motivated her to search further for a church, and beginning that search at St. Philip's resulted in her becoming a member. As she says, "it feels real right". Barb's sponsors are her neighbors, Al and Patty Todnem.



Darlene Bender

Darlene has lived in Hastings for four years. She was born and raised in St. Paul, the Frogtown area, with her elementary school being Jackson, and her high school Mechanic Arts. She, along with her mother and sister, attended Faith Lutheran, on the corner of Charles and MacCubbin, St. Paul, where she was confirmed, married, and raised her family. Darlene taught cosmetology after finishing at the St. Paul School of Beauty. She later became employed in the service department of Northland Mortgage Company where she remained for 20 years. Darlene's final career choice, which lasted 20 years, was to begin a cleaning company called "Oakland Maids". Her clients were in Oakdale and Woodbury plus one commercial client, Wolff Family Mortuary on White Bear Ave. Her hobbies are crocheting, reading, doing jigsaw puzzles, and listening to classical music. She also plays "Free Cell" and enjoys watching movies. Darlene has one daughter, 3 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. As for how she found St. Philip's, it happened to be her polling place. Deborah Dreher is Darlene's sponsor.



Kathy Boron

Kathy Boron and her husband purchased 20 acres in Denmark township 10 years ago where they built a home, plus were able to own horses. Kathy's husband later passed away of ALS. Kathy was born and raised in Jamestown, North Dakota, where most of her family remains. She took her higher education at UND in Grand Forks, majoring in Elementary Education and Special Education, doing advanced studies in Special Education at St. Mary's and the University of Minnesota. Kathy enjoys many hobbies, some of which are gardening (especially flowers), water color painting, hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, guitar, reading, crocheting, singing, cooking, traveling, and all animals of which she now has one dog and two cats. Kathy has two daughters, one in Prescott, with two grandchildren, and one in St. Paul. In her quest to find a new church, with her former church too far away, she visited several in Hastings. When meeting Pastor Geier, she knew she would like to be in his congregation which she discovered to be extremely welcoming. Kathy spends her winters in Arizona, but will want to participate in many activities during the months she is in Minnesota. Kathy's sponsor is Camille Nelson.

Update to Funeral Handbook

The following paragraph in our Funeral Handbook has been updated to reflect our current Designated Accounts:

You may specify organizations you wish to benefit from gifts given in memory of your loved one. Gifts given to St. Philip's may be given to Designated Funds: Building, Camp Scholarship, Capital, Landscaping & Gardening, Mortgage, Preschool Scholarship, Worship & Music and Youth Activity. Undesignated gifts received will be allocated to General Operations.

Questions may be directed to the Finance Ministry Team.

National Triennial WELCA Convention

Six attendees from St. Philip's WELCA organization were among the 1,100 attendees at the National Triennial WELCA convention held in Des Moines, Iowa on July 16-19. The theme was "I Am Worthy", which was the backdrop of the plenary presentations and the workshops which had overflowing crowds in them every day. A five-piece women's Praise Band provided all the convention music. A significant highlight was the arrival of the ELCA's new Bishop Curry. He brought words of greeting and presided over the closing worship. The St. Philip's attendees met Bishop Curry shortly after his arrival in the hall, and got a quick photo with him. All St. Paul Area Synod attendees wore a straw hat with a yellow band. See Bishop Curry in the back row.



Adult Choir

An ensemble of adults and high school students in grades 9-12 will once again begin singing this fall. The choir will sing approximately once a month, with rehearsal on Tuesday at 7 pm prior to singing in worship. We will gather for our first practice on Tuesday, September 22, and sing for the first time this season on October 11. Anyone with an interest in singing is welcome to join. If you have questions, contact Becky Raimann at 651-437-1377.



THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: Moabites are bad. They were not allowed to dwell among God's people. "No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD..." (Deuteronomy 23:3).

BUT THEN comes the story of "Ruth the Moabite" which challenges the prejudice against Moabites. After pledging herself to the God of Israel ("Your people shall be my people, and your God my God"), she was accepted into Israel, married Boaz, became the great-grandmother of David, and ultimately appears in the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Ruth 1:16; Ruth 4; Matthew 1:5). This is one of the strongest examples of a formerly excluded people being brought directly into the messianic line.

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: People from Uz are evil (Jeremiah 25)

BUT THEN comes the story of Job, a man from Uz who was the "most blameless man on earth." (Job 1:1)

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: No eunuchs are allowed to enter the assembly of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 23:1).

BUT THEN Isaiah prophesies a future day when faithful eunuchs will receive "a name better than sons and daughters" (Isaiah 56:3-5). In Acts 8, an Ethiopian eunuch hears the gospel, believes, is baptized, and becomes one of the earliest recorded Gentile converts. This is an especially striking Old Testament-to-New Testament reversal.

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: Lepers and the ceremonially "unclean" were to be avoided. (Leviticus 13-14.)

BUT THEN Jesus repeatedly touches and heals lepers and women with hemorrhages, restoring them to fellowship and community. Rather than being defiled by them, His holiness cleanses them. (Matthew 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16, Luke 17:11-19, Luke 8:43-48, Matthew 9:20-22).

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: God's people hated Samaritans (John 4:9)

BUT THEN Jesus tells a story that shows a Samaritan as a moral example of merciful behavior (Luke 10:30-37) and Jesus also has his longest conversation with a Samaritan woman that results in her and many others believing he is the Messiah. (John 4:4-42) Later, Philip goes to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. Samaritan believers receive the Holy Spirit and become part of the church (Acts 8:4-8).

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: Jews were not to associate with Gentiles as they were "unclean" (Ezra 9:11-12). Israel was set apart from the nations, and Gentiles were outside the covenant community (Genesis 17:7-14; Exodus 19:5-6).

BUT THEN God shows Peter that no food or person is to be considered unclean (Acts 10.) Paul later teaches that Gentiles are now "fellow heirs" and members of the same body (Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:6) and "There is neither Jew nor Greek ... for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

THE STORY MAY BEGIN with prejudice, discrimination and animosity, **but the Holy Spirit** moves God's people towards openness, welcome, inclusion, acceptance, and affirmation. There is a recurring biblical pattern in which people who were once excluded, considered unclean, or kept at a distance are later brought into God's covenant people and ultimately the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God!



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.

Save the Date Philadazzle - Sunday, November 29. It's the end of summer and we're thinking about Advent and the 5th Annual Philadazzle! What's Philadazzle? It's an evening for the adults – dinner and entertainment. We need YOU to help us plan and make it a great evening! Please sign up on the kiosk to help us. First planning meeting is September 14 at 5:00 pm. Questions, contact Camille Nelson, Fellowship Ministry.



Annual Stewardship Emphasis Begins

The St. Philip's Stewardship Ministry Team announces the theme for its fall emphasis to be "Blessed to be a Blessing". The congregation will hear Temple Talks from fellow members, beginning Sept. 20, and continuing monthly. "Pledge Sunday" will be November 22, followed by a complimentary celebration pancake and sausage breakfast. While Stewardship is the sharing of our time and talents, the Stewardship team also encourages the sharing of one's financial resources. Pledging to the General Fund and the Capital is offered but not required. St. Philip's is blessed to have a strong percentage of its members complete a pledge card with their intended giving plan. The collective blessings of individuals are multiplied when shared, which in turn provides for the operations and ministries which flow from St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Members of the Stewardship Team are Al Todnem, Gerri Lundby, Jeannie Evans, Dan Strehlow, Sam Willis, Deborah Dreher, Krystel Ebel and Glenda Schnirring as Chair.

KEEPING CONNECTED

We are Tom and Cheryl Bullington, members of St. Philip's since 2003! Tom is a realtor with Coldwell Banker as well as a communications consultant at Prairie Island, while Cheryl works several jobs involving local elections and rescuing used books from the landfill. We have two grown sons, Jake and Christopher (and a collection of grand-pets with their own Instagram account!).

We have always been a hiking family who love to go down to the river and up north to the lake, and in the

last few years we have gotten really invested in native gardening and providing pollinator-friendly habitats. We like to say that they will know we are Christians by the sheer amount of milkweed running wild in our suburban lawn! While of course this is both therapy and stewardship of the earth, it is also a classroom in which nature continually shows that we are not really in control – nor do we need to be to make real and lasting change to God's creation or among our fellow humans. It's interesting how something as simple as helping a monarch butterfly gives a new and different understanding of the work Jesus gave us to do.

No surprise to most of you that we are also passionate about being involved in government, activism and speaking out against injustice. This has involved a lot of awkward conversations, honest soul-searching and finding the willingness to draw hard lines. We don't share this to stir up any controversy or get up on a soapbox. In a very real sense, it is a ministry we feel called to, though most of the time we definitely feel unqualified and uncertain. But ultimately, we think the answers are clear if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, to speak for those who don't get to have a voice. Every day we struggle with what it means to love your neighbor - and we feel so blessed that has always been the heart and soul of this congregation.

It's hard to believe our family has enjoyed 23 years of

worshiping and serving at St. Philip's. When we were parents of young kids and then teens, we valued this church family for helping us raise children with solid values. When we struggled with challenges like cancer or losing parents, we leaned on our friends here and received their prayers



and their casseroles left on the front step. We have the advantage of looking back now and seeing all the ways that this church family has impacted our lives, and the privilege of stepping into our retirement years and wondering where God will put us to work next.

Circle Meeting and Bible Study

The date for the September Circle Meeting and Bible Study is September 10, 2026. We will continue to meet in the North Room at church, the second Thursday of the month from September through May. Starting time is 9:30 with coffee and a short business meeting. The Bible Study follows and lasts around an hour. The study we use is found in the Gather magazine. There are three extra copies of the magazine which are found in the WELCA mailbox at church. If your copy of the magazine does not arrive in time before the meeting, we always have paper copies available at the meeting. The fall Bible Study is entitled " Bold faith on an unexpected journey, " by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney. This three-session study is a journey with Hagar, Ruth, and Mary Magdalene, women whose faith transforms their unexpected stories. Their meetings with God remind us that we, too, are seen, sustained and sent to carry good news into the world. All are welcome! Questions to Susan Cruse.

Adult Forums

Sept 6: No Forum. Enjoy your Labor Day weekend!

Sept 13: Rally Sunday. Stick around after worship and help us fill school supply bags for Lutheran World Relief.

Sept 20: Pastor Geier - Join him in the North Room.

Sept 27: Join us after worship for a session based on **The Wired Word**, a Biblically informed discussion of something recently in the news. Check the Sunday bulletin emailed to you on Friday, Sept 25, for the topic of the day.

Have topics you'd like to see addressed by Adult Spiritual Growth? Contact a current member of the committee: Doug Schultz, Chuck Clanton, Jennie Thomas or Pastor Geier. Even better, join the committee! It meets virtually at 6 pm on the fourth Monday of the month. Contact the chair, Doug Schultz, or Chuck Clanton who provides the Zoom link.

Poinsettia Sale

Red, white, and pink poinsettias will be available for purchase again this year for Christmas Eve. The sign up will be on the kiosk in October. We need to give Gertens our order by November 2 for the early discount.

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

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.

GIVING AND EXPENSE	
2026	2025
July 2026 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$335,903.43	\$314,905.44
July 2026 YTD Capital Fund	
\$140,667.09	\$102,793.54
July 2026 YTD Expenses	
\$388,463.84	\$396,613.99
Net	
\$88,106.68	\$21,084.99
July 2026 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$59,486.99	\$57,407.81

ST. PHILIP’S STAFF

Gregory Geier, Pastor
pastorgeier@splchastings.org
Noreen Swanson, Organist
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**ST. PHILIP’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND PRESCHOOL**

1401 West 15th Street, Hastings, Minnesota
651-437-6541 www.splchastings.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service:

In Person and Livestream Worship at 9:30 am
(Livestream link on www.splchastings.org,
YouTube and Facebook)

Sunday Education Hour:

Adult Forum at 10:40 am
Sunday School at 10:40 am

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