

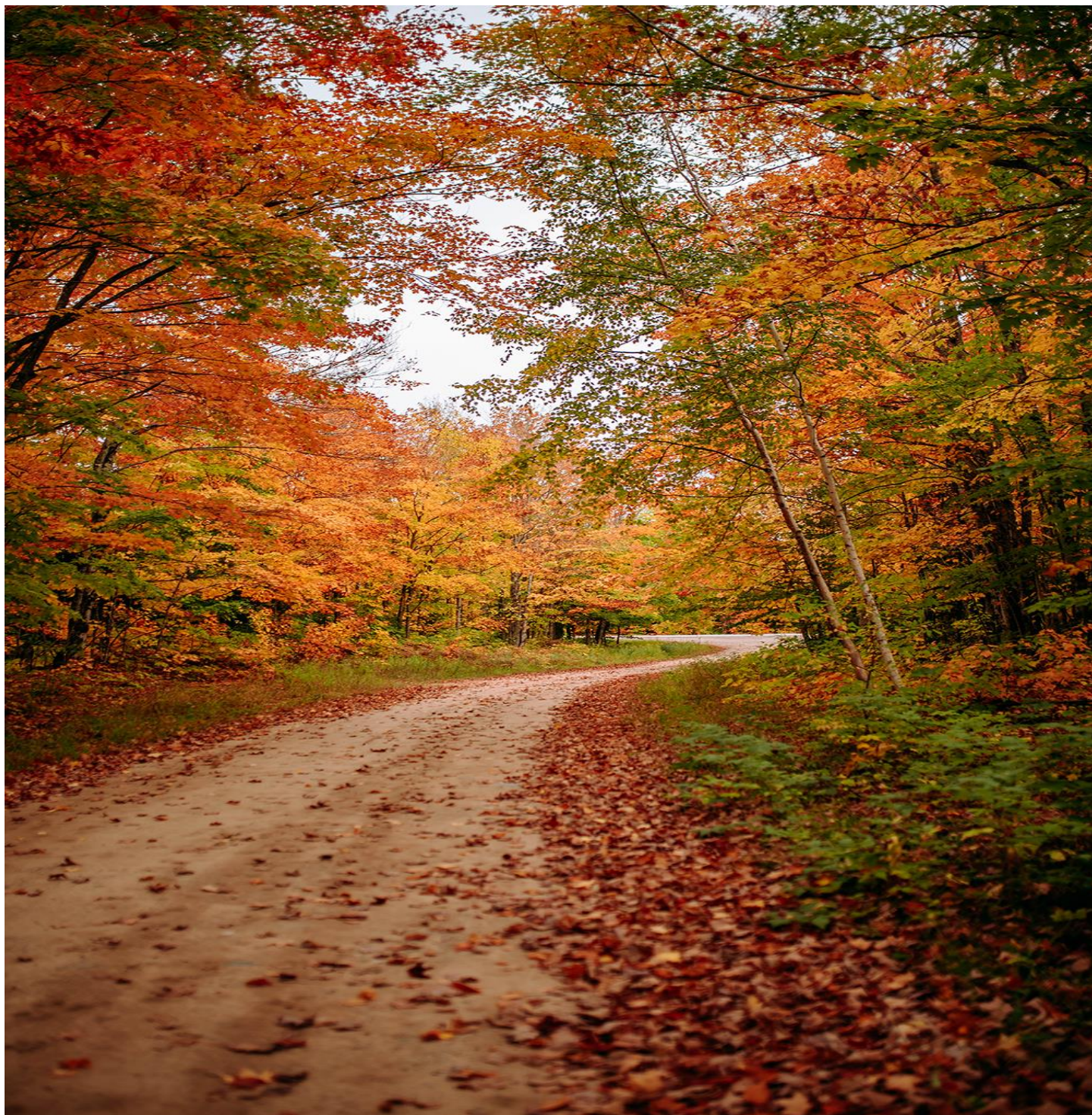
The Philippian

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

October 2026



"Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..."

Philippians 3:7-8

From the Epistle Lesson for October 4

In his letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul writes: "Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..."

These words invite us to ask a simple but profound question: **What really matters?**

Paul had every reason to be confident in his accomplishments. He was educated, respected, devoted to his faith, and committed to living according to religious expectations. Yet after encountering the risen Christ, Paul saw his life from a new perspective. The things he once considered most important no longer defined him. Instead, he discovered that his true identity rested in God's grace through Jesus Christ.

This message speaks powerfully to us today. We live in a culture that often measures worth by achievement, possessions, status, or success. We may find ourselves asking whether we have done enough, earned enough, or accomplished enough. Even in our faith lives, we can fall into the trap of believing that God loves us because of what we do rather than because of who God is.

Paul reminds us that our relationship with God is not something we earn. It is a gift. As Lutherans, we hold tightly to this good news: we are justified by grace through faith. God claims us, loves us, and calls us God's own, not because of our accomplishments but because of Christ's saving work.

Here in Hastings, we see daily reminders of God's grace at work. We witness neighbors helping neighbors, families supporting one another, and members of our congregation sharing their gifts in worship, service, and fellowship. Our members sew quilts, do food rescue and volunteer at Hastings Family Service, deliver Meals on Wheels, tutor at our schools and so much more. These acts do not earn

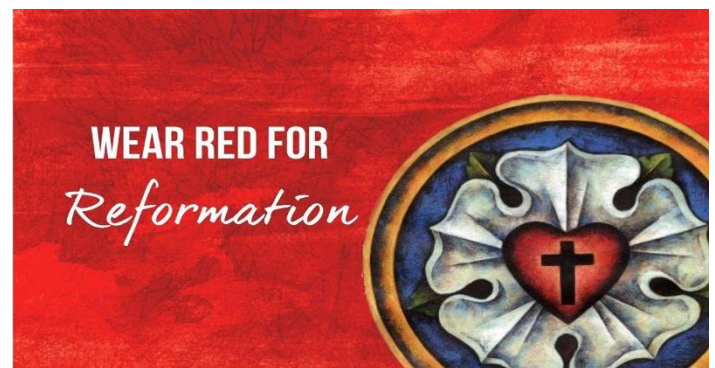
God's love; they are responses to the love we have already received.

As autumn settles across the Mississippi River Valley and our routines become busy once again, Paul's words invite us to pause. What are we holding onto too tightly? What worries, achievements, or expectations may be competing for our attention? How might Christ be calling us to place our trust more fully in God's promises?

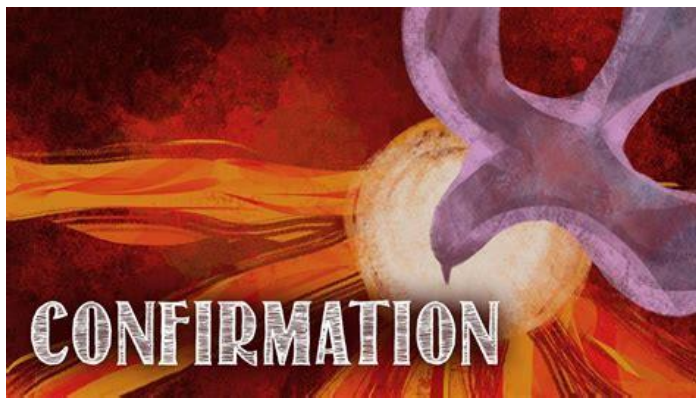
The good news of Philippians 3 is that Christ meets us exactly where we are. We do not need to prove ourselves. We do not need to measure up to some impossible standard. In Christ, we have already received a treasure greater than anything the world can offer: a relationship with the One who knows us completely and loves us unconditionally. May we, like Paul, discover the "surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus" and find joy in the grace that frees us to serve our neighbors and live with hope.

May we focus our energies on placing our confidence not in ourselves but in God's unfailing love and treasuring the gift of knowing Christ above all else. It is then that God will free us from the burdens we carry and fill us with faith, hope, and joy. Thanks be to God!

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Geier*



*October 25th is
Reformation Sunday!*



Affirmation of Baptism Celebration (Confirmation) will be October 25th at our 9:30 Reformation worship service! Come help our newly confirmed members celebrate!

Sunday Scripture Readings

Oct 4	Isa	5:1-7
	Phil	3:4b-14
	Matt	21:33-46
Oct 11	Isa	25:1-9
	Phil	4:1-9
	Matt	22:1-14
Oct 18	Isa	45:1-7
	1 Thes	1:1-10
	Matt	22:15-22
Oct 25	Jer	31:31-34
	Rom	3:19-28
	John	8:31-36

Among Our Own

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

Jerry and Judy Liffbrig on their 53rd wedding anniversary on October 6

Carl and Marlys Vedders on their 50th wedding anniversary on October 9

Matt and Julie Larson on their 30th wedding anniversary on October 19

Kent and Sue Rischette on their 1st wedding anniversary on October 4

Director Needed

for St. Philip's



If you love children and love music we may have a ministry opportunity for you! Our congregation currently needs someone to step up to lead our children's choirs. If you think you might be interested in this important ministry, ask Pastor Geier about it. You might just be surprised at what God is calling you to do!

Preschool Chatter

Wow, did summer fly by! It's crazy to think we are back in the full swing of school. Our staffing and classes look a little different this year. At the end of last school year, Miss Rachel resigned. With her resignation, combined with our lower enrollment numbers, we are running with three staff this year. On Mon/Wed/Fri, Miss Lorelei and Miss Kari are teaching a class of 15 and Miss Becky is teaching a class of 10. Then on Tues/Thurs, Miss Becky and Miss Kari are teaching a class of 13. This year we have 38 spots filled compared to the 40 we had filled at this time last year. As a staff we feel very blessed with the students we are able to have. We are excited to have the opportunity to teach the students we have about all kinds of cognitive and social/emotional skills – and, of course, the love of Jesus!

September themes included: Welcome to School, All About Me, Teddy Bear Friends, and Pets. We enjoyed learning some new songs, making new friends, art time and playground time to enjoy the fall weather. During Teddy Bear Friends week, each child was able to adopt and take home a special teddy bear friend. We are looking forward to a visit from the Rio Gran Dog Agility Show during Pets week, September 30/October 1. This month we also had our first chapel times with Pastor Geier. The children enjoyed the blessing of the backpacks at our first chapel, hearing about the creation story at our second chapel and (of course) singing and signing "Jesus Loves Me".

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support for our preschool program! We greatly appreciate it and are grateful to have the opportunity to work with young families in our community. We hope that all members of St. Philip's congregation, young and old are making a smooth transition into the new season and whatever that may look like for you and your family. Blessings, Becky and Lorelei.

Children's Ministry Rally Day

Rally Day is always such a fun day and this year didn't disappoint. To kick the weekend off we had Carolyn and Baker join pastor on Saturday for Opening the Bible Class. This class teaches the students how to look up things in the bible and learn different parts of the Bible. Then on Sunday we handed out two elementary Bibles and seven Preschool Bibles. Thank you to WELCA for purchasing the bibles for our students. Also, during service, we had the Blessing of the Backpacks where everyone got a special walk

with Jesus keychain to remind them that Jesus is always with them. After service we enjoyed bounce houses, freezes, football, soccer and fellowship. Such a beautiful blessing to spend this time with our congregation.



Putting Personal Bibles in St. Philip's Children's Hands

On Sunday, Sept. 13, families with 3 year old children or 2nd and 3rd grade children came forward to recite a litany of responsibility for parents to place God's Word in the hands of their children and read the stories written for their age level. St. Philip's WELCA organization provides the funds for the Bible purchases.



The Cummings and Robertson families are seen at the altar receiving their children's Bibles.



Katie and Warren Thomas with 3rd grader, Carolyn.

Sunday School

On September 20, we kicked off our Sunday School year. We have three different classes beginning this year and are so excited for programming to start back up. If you have not signed up but would like to it's not too late. Sunday School is such a fun way to learn about Jesus as well as make new friends at church. Please see Becky for more information.

Upcoming Events for Children and Families

Family Camping Event

On Friday, October 9, from 5:30-7:30 pm we will be doing an indoor family camping event. This event will include a hot dog dinner, camp songs, crafts, a camp treat, and more. Please join us for a fun night of activities and fellowship.

Trunk or Treat

Our annual Trunk or Treat event will be on October 24 from 3:30-5 pm. This event takes place in the church parking lot. We need volunteers from the congregation to set up their cars and pass out treats. Please sign up on the kiosk if you can hand out treats that day. This event is for St. Philip's Congregation and our St. Philip's Preschool families.

We ask that families coming to the event bring an item to donate for the United Way Food 4 Kids Campaign. Items needed are individual breakfast, lunch, and dinner items that can be sent home with kids in need to have food for the weekend.

Youth & Confirmation News

High School Feed My Starving Children

Our high school group will be heading to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan on **October 3!** Students will meet at church at **8:30 AM** to carpool, with a return time of approximately **noon**. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help with driving. If you can drive, please sign up on the bulletin board by the Youth Room. High schoolers, be sure to **RSVP on GroupMe or email Lydia** so you can be added to our list!

Middle School Fall Festival

Our middle school students are invited to join us for a **Fall Festival on October 4 at 2:00 PM!** Come enjoy games, fun, and treats as we celebrate the season together. We are also looking for a few volunteers to help run games and make the afternoon a success. If you can help, please let Lydia know!

Confirmation Feed My Starving Children Trip

The Confirmation class will be heading to Feed My Starving Children on **October 21**, departing from church around **6:30 PM** and returning by approximately **9:15 PM**. This time, we are excited to **open the opportunity to the entire congregation!** If you would like to join us for an evening of service and fellowship, please sign up on the sheet located on the **kiosk in the Narthex**.

Confirmation Workshop

Students being confirmed this year will gather for a **Confirmation Workshop on October 24 from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM**. Students will walk through a rehearsal of what to expect during the confirmation service and will also have the opportunity to put together their confirmation stoles.

Confirmation Sunday

We will celebrate our confirmation students on **October 25!** Please join us in worship as we honor this special milestone in their faith journeys. A reception will follow in the Narthex. Be sure to congratulate our newly confirmed students and celebrate with their families!

Confirmation Faith Statements

On Sunday, Sept. 13, Haven Wormley shared her personal story of her own developing faith. She's in 9th grade, having come to St. Philip's 8 years ago with her parents and three siblings. Haven based her message on Psalm 56:3, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in thee". At a younger time, but recent enough to remember, Haven had to have her heart medically stopped. She was afraid and



told her nurse. Her nurse asked what should we pray for and Haven said let's tell God we put all our trust in Him. Haven is a musician, enjoys playing the French horn and chooses to pray before doing any solos, as well as before any doctor visits. She admitted questioning her faith but remembers the help her grandparents, her parents and her confirmation mentors have been in keeping her faith. She will continue to serve her God at St. Philip's in ways like VBS and youth events. Haven will be confirmed at the end of October.

Blessing Children's Back Packs

On Sept 13, during "Children's Time", Blessing the Backpacks and prayers for the children's upcoming time at school occurred. Fears were addressed by giving the comfort of prayers and Jesus' love. Becky Kaphing assisted by giving each child something for their backpack that would help them through their school days.



"God's Work, Our Hands", is a Synod Sponsored Outreach Program. On Sunday Sept. 13, St. Philip's members of all ages made a line on each side of long tables covered with specific items for school bags. They systematically put the items in each bag which will go to children in distant countries through Lutheran World Relief. Over 300 bags were filled. Jan Kochendorfer led the solicitation of the items the bags needed, and organized their distribution. Jennie Orr, who has led the project for years, provided full assistance in securing the bags. Thrivent Financial provided \$250 toward the purchase of the bags.



Violet and Greta Sieben had their place in the assembly line.



The team that led and brought the project to a close were Steve Wolverton, Sue Karnick, Mary Rock, Jennie Orr, Terry Kochendorfer and Richie Beatty. Back row, Project lead, Jan Kochendorfer and supply checker Geneva Weissner.

Adult Choir

An ensemble of adults and high school students in grades 9-12 will 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.

Pies and People at Historic LeDuc August 28

St. Philip's hosts it's pie and ice cream event during the outdoor concerts behind Historic LeDuc every August. We do this event to build the awareness of its own faith family, plus get better acquainted with the community. The proceeds help St. Philip's support Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. This year the proceeds were \$863 to help with that need. Music was by the "Double Down Daredevils". A crowd of over 100 enjoyed the evening's music and desserts.





St. Philip's Bake / Soup / Quilt Sale

When: Saturday, November 21 from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm.

What: All kinds of baked items, including quick breads, yeast breads, cakes, pies, candy, cookies, scandinavian goodies and special holiday treats. home canned jams, jellies, pickles, relish and salsa.

Please package and label all items in clear wrap and include any allergy. Information such as containing nuts.



Lefse Making Opportunities

When: Wednesday, October 14 at 9:00 am until done
Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 am until done.

Sign-up sheets for lefse making and donation of ingredients are on the kiosk in the narthex.

Soup Making

When: Friday, November 20, 9:00 am

What: Chicken Taco
Beef Vegetable
Turkey and Wild
Rice gluten free
Bean and Ham – gluten free



Sign-up sheets for workers for making soup and for working the day of the sale will be on the kiosk in the narthex in October.

Quilt Sale

When: Saturday, November 21,
9:00 am-12:30 pm
What: beautiful quilts made by St. Philip's Do Day members.



Stewardship Season Reminds Us - We are "Blessed to be a Blessing" We heard our first Temple Talk at the Sept 20 service around the 2027 theme, "Blessed to be a Blessing". We thank Michelle Carlson-Schmidt for her personal message. Temple Talks will happen in October and November by fellow members who have graciously agreed to do so. Stewardship is made up of our time, talents, and treasures. In response to God's unrelenting love and forgiveness, we humbly return his gifts to us through our works in church and community, and in the time and personal financial resources we give to the mission of St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Stewardship Sunday will be November 22, followed by a complimentary pancake/sausage breakfast. A packet will come to each home by November 10. Please open the packet, look at what it invites you to do and prayerfully think of how you will respond. We are all blessed in countless ways. Let our responses reflect it with humble and love-filled hearts.



Your
GIVING
matters

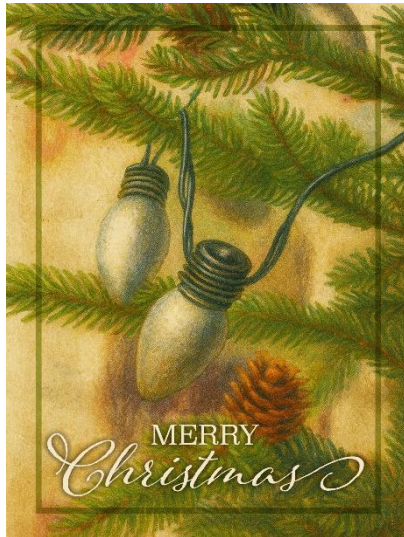
Save the Date

Let's go back in time and celebrate "An Old Fashioned Christmas" on Sunday, November 29, 2026, for our annual Philadazzle Advent gathering.

There will be plenty of food and entertainment as we will remember the reason for being together - the beginning of the most holy Advent season.

Tickets are \$25 per person and will be available on the following Sundays in November: 1, 8, 15, and 22. Should you have a special request, please call the church office and arrangements can be made. Tickets will NOT be available at the door.

The menu will consist of roast beef, and fried chicken plus all the trimmings, with a little bit of lefse added for those Scandinavians who crave this delicacy. Gluten-free foods will also be available. Following the meal we will be entertained by the St. Croix Valley Chordsmen. There will be selections by the large group and also by a quartet. Margaret Goderstad.



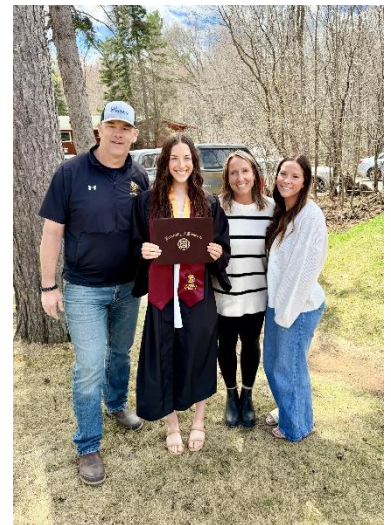
KEEPING CONNECTED

The Jenkins Family - Hello there! Chris and Kate Jenkins here and we are going to tell you a bit about our family.

Chris was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, along with his parents and one older brother. They lived 10 or so miles outside of the city in a cozy log home his parents and friends built on a couple of acres. This was the perfect spot to raise sled dogs and get them out on the trails. Chris attended the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, studied Recreation Management, and had the great fortune to meet Kate.

Kate was born and raised in Stewartville, Minnesota, along with her parents and two older siblings. Their family dairy farm bordered the city limits giving Kate the best of both worlds; country living and proximity to town, activities and friends. Kate also attended the University of Montana, studying Criminal Justice & Psychology, where she had the great fortune to meet Chris.

We were married in Missoula, Montana, June 16, 2001. That fall we moved to Homer, AK, and eventually moved back to Fairbanks, AK. Kate continued her education earning a Masters of Education and has been a high school counselor ever since. Chris continued in the Parks & Recreation profession, and currently works for the City of Hastings Parks & Recreation Department. Our family moved to Hastings in 2013. Our two daughters, Kendal and Lauren (both born in AK, which Chris is very proud of), attended elementary school through high school in Hastings. Both swam competitively and played softball, and both attended college at the University of Minnesota Duluth and continued playing softball for the Bulldogs! Kendal graduated from UMD this spring, and is pursuing a Doctorate of Physical Therapy at Mayo in Rochester. Lauren is a Junior at UMD this year and plans to pursue a career in nursing.



Downtown Halloween Family Fun Sunday, Oct 25

St. Philip's will again be participating in this annual community event. We'll be serving hundreds of cups of hot chocolate throughout the afternoon. Watch the kiosk to sign up for donations and to volunteer. Many volunteers will be needed to make it a success. Questions? Fellowship Ministry, Camille Nelson, Chair.

Poinsettia Sale

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



LWR Results - Thank you to everyone for your contributions to this year's school supply collection for Lutheran World Relief. We were able to fill 313 bags and have money left over to help pay for shipping!

Red Cross Blood Drive - Thank you to everyone who supported the blood drive by donating, serving and praying on August 20, 2026. We collected 37 whole blood units! Thanks to your efforts, up to 111 lives could be saved! Our next drive will be Tuesday, March 23, 2027 from Noon until 6pm. Katy Lindberg.



NO VEHICLES BEYOND THIS POINT

As a reminder, during our Preschool drop-off/pickup times plus school session hours, 8:45 AM to 12:15 PM, please refrain from driving through or parking in this designated area. Thank you.



THE ETERNAL IMPACT OF A SIMPLE GIFT

As the world continues to struggle with wars and worldwide natural disasters, packing a shoebox is a simple and quick way to reach boys and girls around the world with the Gospel. This is your chance to be a missionary from the comfort of your own hometown! Children need great joy now more than ever. **MOST OF ALL**, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Will you partner with us and Samaritan's Purse to share that glorious hope with boys and girls around the world -- many of whom have never heard the name of Jesus?

Stop by the table in the narthex beginning November 1 to pick up your red and green shoebox (or you can use your own shoebox) to fill with love and hope. The last day to drop off a filled shoebox this year will be Sunday, November 22. If packing a traditional shoebox isn't an option for you this year, consider building a shoebox online! Directions on how to do this can be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Questions? Please contact Robyn Tank or Emily Preston or visit Samaritan's Purse's website at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Thank you for partnering with us this shoebox season to bring Good News and Great Joy to suffering children around the world!

Augsburg Centennial Singers celebrate 34 years in music in final season. Come, enjoy an afternoon with the Singers at Our Saviors Evangelical Lutheran Church here in Hastings on October 11, 2026 at 3 pm. David Weisser and Al Todnem of St. Philip's are members of this choir.

Adult Forums

October 4 - Join us for sessions based on *The Wired Word*, a Biblically informed discussion of something recently in the news. Check the Sunday Bulletin emailed to you on Friday for that week's topic of the day. Join us in the North Room as soon as you've picked up your coffee and doughnut holes after worship.

October 11 - A brainstorming session. Please join the group to discuss possible topics. Bring your ideas on how to improve your experience. The Adult Spiritual Growth Committee will do our best to ask discussion leaders within the congregation and invite outside presenters.

October 18 - Pastor Geier will speak on "Holy Land: Trying to Understand People and Place".

October 25 - No formal Adult Forum. Please attend the Confirmation Reception and congratulate our young adults on their Affirmation of Baptism.

Pastor Geier's Tidbits

Reasons For Staying Away From Sporting Events:

1. Every time I went, they asked me for money.
2. The people sitting next to me didn't seem very friendly.
3. The seats were very hard.
4. The coach has never come to call on me.
5. The referee made a decision with which I simply could not agree.
6. I could tell I was surrounded by hypocrites...they only came to see what others were wearing.
7. Some games went into over-time, and I was late getting home.
8. The band played some songs I'd never even heard before.
9. The games are always scheduled at a time when I want to do other things.

10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.

11. I've read a book on sports, so I know more than the coaches know, anyway.

12. I don't want to drag my children to these things, because I want them to choose for themselves what sports they like best.

Does any of this sound familiar? Do these kinds of answers keep you from inviting others to church? Do any of these answers keep you from church?

The 10 Commandments In Rhyme

Above all else love God alone,
Bow down to neither wood nor stone.
God's name refuse to take in vain;
The Sabbath rest with care maintain.
Respect your parents all your days;
Hold sacred human life always.
Be loyal to your chosen mate;
Steal nothing, neither small nor great.
Report, with truth, your neighbor's deed;
And rid your mind of selfish greed.

-Dr. Elton Trueblood

GIVING AND EXPENSE	
2026	2025
Aug 2026 YTD General & Misc Giving	
\$369,249.88	\$338,665.58
Aug 2026 YTD Capital Fund	
\$156,332.92	\$115,532.33
Aug 2026 YTD Expenses	
\$444,647.18	\$436,510.38
Net	
\$80,935.62	\$17,687.53
Aug 2026 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.	
\$68,274.32	\$65,593.99

ST. PHILIP’S STAFF

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**ST. PHILIP’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND PRESCHOOL**

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

Church Office Hours:

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

Sunday Worship Service:

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

Sunday Education Hour:

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

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