

# 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*

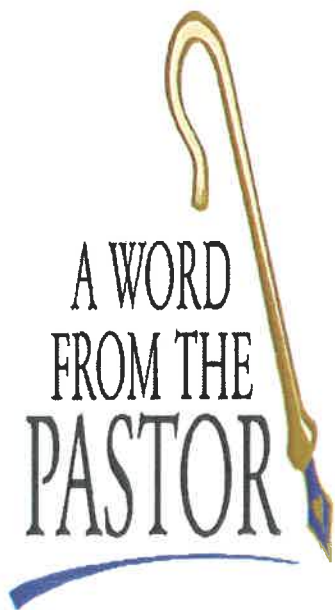
**May 2026**

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“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In 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? <sup>3</sup>And 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.

John 14:1-3  
For the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter



Clean the house. Shop for groceries. Cook a lovely dinner. Set out the good china—maybe even the crystal. Light the candles. The company will arrive soon, and you want everything to be just right. Preparations have been underway for some time, all done out of love for those we are about to welcome.

As meaningful as these efforts are, they pale in comparison to what Jesus Christ has prepared for us and for all who believe and trust in Him. Christ is preparing a place in His Father’s house—a dwelling far grander than we can imagine and certainly far more than we deserve. His preparation, too, is an act of love, but it is a love infinitely more majestic and sacrificial than the love we show our earthly guests.

Jesus Christ has attended to every detail and assures us that everything will be ready when He brings us safely there. These preparations began long ago and culminated in His perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection.

In this farewell discourse, Jesus had just predicted Judas’ betrayal and Peter’s denial. Yet even in this moment, He speaks words of comfort, seeking to calm the troubled hearts of those He loves. In what was clearly the darkest of hours, Jesus was characteristically focused not on Himself, but on others.

Jesus promised to return for His disciples—and that promise includes us. His deep desire is that we would be with God eternally. What perfect love! Even when our hearts are troubled, Christ’s promise remains

sure: He has prepared a place for each of us and is eager to welcome us home. Thanks be to God.

*Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Geier*

## Sunday Scripture Readings

May 3	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14
May 10	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21
May 14	Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53
May 17	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11
May 24	Acts 2:1-21 1 Cor 12:3b-13 John 7:37-39
May 31	Gen 1:1-2:4a 2 Cor 13:11-13 Matt 28:16-20

## 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+...*

**Bill and Vicki Pavlish** on their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on May 25

**Steve and Cindy Mollick** on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 1

**Jacob and Stephanie Lodewegen** on their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 7

**Jason and Rachel Moritz** on their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 28

# Preschool Chatter

Hard to believe we are starting our last month of school for the year. We've had such a fun year, it has really flown by. For the month of April, we had themes that included teddy bears, bees, Noah's Ark, and the zoo. Some highlights of the month were teddy bear day which was filled with different games, a teddy bear adoption, and teddy graham snack. Through a generous donation, every child was able to adopt a new bear to take home with them. We also enjoyed bee rhyming games, playdough, extra outside time and animal action games. We are really looking forward to our spring field trip this year which will be at Carpenter Nature Center on May 7th. Our theme for this trip will be colors in nature. As a special treat this year, we will be having our picnic at the nature center. Thank you to everyone who supported our Raise Right fundraiser to help cover this trip for our students. Our enrollment numbers are low but mighty. We have 36 children who we are blessed to be a part of their early learning years. We are truly grateful for the support the congregation has given us through Raise Right to help with not only some of our basic needs but also additional things that otherwise we would not have been able to do! Remember that with Raise Right if you shop at Cub/Walmart, etc. on a weekly/monthly basis, buying these cards for face value and/or reloading them will cost you nothing extra and really helps us out 😊.

During the month of April, we also had parent teacher conferences. This is an important time in the spring particularly to talk with families about their child's progress. It is amazing to see how much these children progress and grow in the eight months we have had them in our school. Many of our students will be heading off to kindergarten this fall and it is a great opportunity for teachers to let parents know what to expect during the next exciting transition for their children.

As we begin to finish off this school year we are also already looking forward to the next one. Enrollment for fall is underway. Current numbers for next year are a little lower than where they were at this point last year. We do continue to see the number of children in the area declining. It remains a concern for our little program to have enough students enrolling to cover operating expenses. If you know anyone looking for a preschool, please share our information. If you own a business where we could hang a flyer up or you are willing to place a sign in your yard to help us get the word out, please let us know. We are also looking to

maybe post some families' personal experiences on our Facebook page. If you or your child attended St. Philip's Preschool and would like to share a fun story about what you enjoyed about the program, please feel free to share it directly on our preschool page/tag us in your story or email it to us and we'd be happy to post it. As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support!  
Preschool Co-Directors,  
Becky and Lorelei



VBS signups are in full swing. VBS will run the week of July 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. Registration for both students and volunteers can be done with either paper copies found on the welcome center or using the QR code. St. Philip's always has a big group of kids which means we also need a big group of teens/adults. If you have volunteered before I hope you are coming back and if you've never helped please consider joining us this year. We have jobs to fit anybody. As long as you love kids and Jesus you'd make a great addition to our VBS team. Please see Becky with any questions or email [beckyk@splchastings.org](mailto:beckyk@splchastings.org).



## Children's Ministries Update

On Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> we had a family carnival event. At the event we had lots of different games to play with lots of little prizes, yummy popcorn, tattoos, chalk, and bubbles. The fan favorite game was the prize walk where children got to win some previously donated squish mallows. The kids were very excited to pick their prizes. Families also enjoyed time getting to chat and know each other a little bit. Thank you to everyone who participated and everyone who helped out.



Easter Sunday annual egg hunt was another huge success. Thanks to lots of candy donations and volunteers stuffing eggs our youth room and fellowship were covered in hundreds of eggs. The younger kids enjoyed the freedom of taking over the fellowship hall while older kids enjoyed hunting all over the youth room.

End of Sunday school celebration event will take place on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30. We plan to have the inflatables up, snacks, cornhole, and more. All are welcome to join us 😊!

We also could really use some set up and tear down help for this event. We would need help with set up at 8:45 and noon. If you are available to help please let Becky know in person or via email. Many hands make light work and those inflatables could use many hands. Thanks.





## Youth Ministries Middle School

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



The middle schoolers finally got their chance to use the laser tag equipment in April, and it did not disappoint! They spent the evening darting through the church, finding the perfect hiding spots, and enjoying some friendly competition. It's safe to say everyone had a blast... and slept very well that night!



## High School

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



enjoyed a delicious nacho bar while diving into fun group party games. The laughter was contagious and made for a memorable evening together.



### Looking Ahead

We had our highest turnout yet at both events, 19 middle schoolers and 12 high schoolers joined in the fun! As interest continues to grow, so does our need for volunteers. Serving at these events is a simple, low-pressure way to make a meaningful impact, showing our students just how much their church family cares about them.

### Feed My Starving Children

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

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

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

Even if you were not a mentor this year, we invite you to join us in this event! There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Narthex. Anyone attending the event (including students) must sign up as spaces are limited.



The high school students gathered for our first-ever “Nacho Average Game Night,” and it was a hit! They

## MENTORS BRING MEANING TO A LESSON

During Lent, over 20 members served as mentors for Confirmation students. Five sessions are held going over a prepared curriculum. Thanks to the many members who served our young people in this way.



Bernita Weber and Connor



Jen Klos and her student



Student Sophia with her mentor Katy Lindberg

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

SET UP SUNDAY MAY 31, AFTER CHURCH. St Philip's long standing Garage & Plant Sale will soon be here. Every member can help make it another success. First big push is Sunday May 31, after church, when we convert the church into a department store. Pick - up trucks and able bodied people bring in fixtures, shelving, risers, and hanger boxes to the rooms to begin Monday's staging of goods.

Sign up for workers will begin May 10. The sale touches at least 100 members by their donations of goods, and working during the set up week, sale day, and CLEAN UP. An original reason to have the Garage Sale was to help families acquire essential needs for their homes and families. This has become a big reason for doing the sale again. As plants were added the crowd has expanded to "all things beautiful". Deborah Dreher is the General Chair/Coordinator of the Sale. STUDY THE FLYER, included in NEWSLETTER, for TIMES & NOTES about DONATIONS.



## Stewardship Bits

Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Faith is our theme this year. When Glenda first asked me to write a piece around this theme I was apprehensive. I didn't grow up attending weekly services or going to Sunday School. I know the basic biblical stories, so I immediately thought this would be a Growing in Faith piece.

For those of you that don't know our little family, we're generally the ones walking in at 9:33 am (after a Sunday breakfast of waffles or donuts totally confident that we would be in our super close to the front pew and always under estimating how much time has actually passed). If you pay close attention you will see a boy on each side of me quietly entertained with a worship bag, an education workbook (Noah loves math) or a Lego minifig (Elijah loves building) while I'm just trying to contain Charlotte. Yes Charlotte, the spirited little girl that knows exactly what she doesn't want. She's often climbing on or over her oldest brother during Children's Time and I've successfully managed to keep her in the pew during service most of the time.

When Elijah and Noah were very young, my husband Matt and I wanted to get them baptized and start attending church. Pastor Geier says we're the ones a church hopes for, random walk-ins ready to join. We started attending very shortly thereafter and have attended steadily ever since, except for Covid.

That was when I started Growing in Faith. There have been a lot of worship songs that really resonated with me and stuck with me through the years. With our kids in Sunday School I'm growing with them, learning what activities they did and the message of the sermon. As we all are growing through whatever stage of life we are in, I feel like we all can grow spiritually, emotionally, and mentally.

After the fourth Sunday of every month when our two boys rang bells during service (taught by the fabulous Luann), at least three people come up to me and say how well they did. It really brings me back to being grateful for my family and the church we attend. After a long week with just the busyness of life that is two full time working parents, two children in school, one in daycare (kindergarten in September!) extra curricular activities, homework, cleaning, cooking, family time, and hopefully a shower or three worked in, it can be easy to get overwhelmed and not have gratitude for the blessing that include a healthy family,

and the ability to have a busy life and share it with those around you.

Thank you to everyone for watching our family and possibly thinking: "oh we've been there", "they are only young once", "I miss that age", and even "why are they late" or whatever you are thinking watching us. Thank you for sharing this journey with us. Krystal Ebel.

## Keeping Connected

Hello, my name is Katie Rowan and I'm the 3rd generation of my family to attend St Philips Church! It has been a staple of my life from baptism through confirmation and even baptizing my own son Alex!

I have many core memories from growing up there. I remember church school in the little groups we had, going through my first Communion, church choir (some may remember me fainting during a performance), lefse baking with my grandma's (Grandma Viola Baker & Grandma Mary Lou Christenson plus other lovely ladies), and the Advent Fair! I believe that's what started my love of crafting! I also spent quite a few summers attending Green Lake Bible Camp and made many core memories with a variety of people.

Life took me in many directions but I have been working at the YMCA in Hastings as the Membership Director for almost 5 years now and my son Alex is 10 (turning 11 this summer). My how time flies! One of the best perks about working at the Y is being able to see and talk with many of the St Philips community.

I also do crafts on the side through my business called Craft & Grow, Hastings. I do mostly cross stitch items, earrings and bracelets. Many of my items are custom and are meant to cause a smile or smirk.

Alex's love of sports had kept us busy. Football, basketball, and now starting baseball for the summer! He will also always find time to fish! Fourth grade is almost done and he's excited to start Middle School!

This summer will be filled with baseball, cabin time and other fun events.



## PLEASE CONSIDER ADOPT A SPOT

The second year of "Adopt a Spot" is upon us. Ten locations have been listed on the Kiosk as areas which will need perpetual care from May through September. More than one household is encouraged for some of the spots because they are all sizeable. Our 5.7 acres takes the energy of many members to have a beautifully groomed corner for our house of worship. We can do it but we need to do it together. If you are able to dig out weeds and cut out spent blooms during the summer please consider this as part of your personal "time and talent" stewardship contribution.

Questions may be directed to Glenda Schnirring, Bruce Arndtson, or Al Todnem.



## Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being taken for the 2026 Mary Fischer Memorial Scholarship. This \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a female member of the congregation taking undergraduate courses at a four-year institution in 2026-27. This scholarship was funded in most part by the Fischer Family in honor of Mary Fischer.

If you are interested in applying you can find applications online at [www.splchastings.org](http://www.splchastings.org) or pick up a copy on the welcome center at church. Please fill it out and return an electronic version via email to Dawn Owen in the office at [dawno@splchastings.org](mailto:dawno@splchastings.org) or return to her via mail or drop off at the office in an envelope to maintain the confidentiality. All applications will be coded, and anonymity will be insured for the work of the Award Committee. The deadline is June 19.

## 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.

## GROUNDS "CLEAN-UP" DAY

MAY 16, 9 A.M. -11:30 A.M. Please try to join in the cleaning of the church grounds on Sat. May 16, at 9 a.m. For those who can, we will also have wood chip mulch brought in for spreading on the islands and some of the flower beds. Wheel barrows and forks or shovels to help spread mulch would be welcomed. Wear gloves, bring pruning sheers, hoes and small rakes if you have them. Much has always been done so this day will be to complete the grounds clean up before heavy weed growth. There will be a sign up on the kiosk for those who plan to come. Refreshments will be at 11:30.



## Altar Flowers

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

## CONGRATULATIONS....MEDAL OF VALOR

On May 25, 2025, SPLC member, Sgt. Brittany Carstensen, of the Dakota County Sheriff's Office took an active role in rescuing a victim in the second story of a home who was under serious threat by an armed individual also in the upper level of the home. Brittany discreetly and creatively facilitated the exit of the cornered victim through an upper window onto the ground and to safety.

Brittany is the daughter of SPLC's Office Administrator, Dawn Owen and the daughter-in-law of Gail and Al Carstensen. She is married to Matthew Carstensen and the mother of their daughter, Macey. Brittany was awarded the "**Medal of Valor**" by the Dakota County Sheriff's Office at a ceremony on April 2, 2026.

St. Philip's extends its hearty congratulations to Brittany Carstensen for receiving this distinguished honor.



## Synod Assembly on May 15-16! We're Electing a New Bishop!

This month our synod delegates, along with delegates from the other 105 congregations in our synod will elect a new bishop when we gather at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. In addition to Pastor Geier, Katy Lindberg, Kathy Luedke, and Dan Strehlow will be representing our family of faith. Please keep our entire synod assembly in your prayers as we discern who will serve our synod as bishop for the next six years!

## SAVE THE DATE!

June Summer Outing. Save The Date!

Who: Women and friends of St. Philips

What: June Summer Outing

When: June 18th, 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 will be posted on the kiosk in the narthex in mid May to help with coordinating rides. Questions: ask Susan Cruse.

<b>GIVING AND EXPENSE</b>	
<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Mar 2026 YTD General &amp; Misc Giving</b>	
\$144,708.00	\$131,798.77
<b>Mar 2026 YTD Capital Fund</b>	
\$93,565.36	\$49,115.43
<b>Mar 2026 YTD Expenses</b>	
\$187,834.25	\$157,013.51
<b>Net</b>	
\$50,439.11	\$23,900.69
<b>Mar 2026 YTD Mortgage Principal Rqrd.</b>	
\$23,999.11	\$24,093.00

## GOOD FRIDAY

A solemn Good Friday Service prepared worshippers for Easter Sunday. As the story of Jesus' crucifixion was read the lighted candles were extinguished two at a time until the sanctuary was in darkness.



## EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday worship took place at 8:30 and 10:30 with 340 worshippers in attendance. The sanctuary was graced in many blooming plants given in memory of loved ones. The music was provided by the sanctuary choir, and a group of instrumentalists brought in along with Julie Ronning, on a special instrument, and St. Philip's musicians who delivered a contemporary music message at 10:30. It was a glorious and inspirational morning.

### Brass and Choir



### Brass Ensemble



All the beautiful flowers given in memory of loved ones.



Pastor Geier shows the children an empty egg, symbolizing the empty tomb being celebrated.

