

# The Guidepost



St. Philip's Lutheran Church  
5320 Limestone Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808



## July/August 2023

**“Be the Shine”**

Matthew 5:16



**“As an inclusive and caring congregation, our mission is to make disciples,  
praise God, and serve the community”**

## **Why a Trip to the Holy Land??**

As many of you may have heard at this point, I am organizing a trip with St. Philip's folks to travel to the Holy Land with leaders from the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA. The trip will be 11 days and 10 nights and we'll see so many of the sites that would be featured in the stories of Jesus as we journey "In the Footsteps of Jesus." Many people have asked about why we are traveling there . . . After all, isn't it dangerous? Isn't it unsafe?

I can only speak for myself. But this has been a trip that I have wanted to go on for many, many years now. One of our members, Pastor Dave Mueller led these trips for years and I confess that I was always jealous that in those times I was unable to go - commitments to the congregation or to family prevented me from making those trips. Now, Dave has decided not to lead those trips anymore and I missed my chance to travel with someone I love, respect, and admire. But then this opportunity arose and, because I will have two kids in college (and thus, less responsibility at home, now seems like a much better time than even a year ago).

But I have wanted to go primarily because of my faith. My hope is that in going and seeing these places that we hear about in stories . . . Experiencing the culture, the places, the climate that it will put flesh on stories that I have only had pictures of in my mind. I want to see the place that it is believed that the Sermon on the Mount would have taken place at . . . I want to see the place where the crucifixion occurred . . . I want to see where Jesus would have called his disciples. None of it makes God more real, but I hope it puts flesh on the faith that I have. And maybe it will also challenge me to think differently about God, about Jesus, and about the Church. Maybe it will even give me a different perspective on the Israel-Palestine conflict as well.

Is it safe? Well, what is safe these days? Do I believe we'll be attacked? I really, really don't!! Dave Mueller traveled there many times and has never reported anything unsafe to me. What's more, there are plenty of trips we take where things can happen - that's life. I don't believe this is anymore unsafe than anything else we do these days. What I do believe is that we live each breath in the presence and grace of God . . . What more do we need? That's the faith I want to explore more.

If you are interested in joining the other 21 people who have expressed interest here at St. Philip's, let me know . . . We'll be having an interest meeting with the leader in the next weeks.



St. Philip's Lutheran Church  
Sunday, September 10, 2023



# Rally Day!

Kick off the Program Year!

- **8:00 a.m.** - Worship Service with Holy Communion
- **9:15 a.m.** - Small Groups for All Ages begin.
- **9:15 a.m.** - Kid's Club will meet in the Christian Ed Wing
- **9:15 a.m.** - Breakfast Club will meet in the Youth Room Downstairs
- **9:15 a.m.** - Adult Bible Study will meet in the Fellowship Hall for an introduction to Small Groups for Fall
- **10:30 a.m.** - Worship Service with Holy Communion
- **11:45 a.m.** - Annual St. Philip's Picnic Lunch with Fun and Games for Children of All Ages including a Bounce House!!!

Join us on this Special  
Day as We Celebrate  
the Return of the Fall  
Programs, and  
bring to a Close our  
Summer Sabbath  
Time.

Summer is here! Kids are out of school, and many of our families have been attending graduation parties and backyard barbecues. Pools and beaches await and the laughter of children is in the air.

This is a time to regroup, relax, and enjoy the “sunshine”. (That’s my special name for my granddaughter—she consistently brings sunshine into my life).

Many of us will be traveling in the coming months, so I wish to share with you some excerpts from a prayer by Martin Manser (edited by me):

Lord, give us a good time this summer.

Please give us safety as we travel and some time to relax.

Lord, I pray that this time will be one of inner restoration. Renew us physically, emotionally and spiritually.

May we quickly unwind from all the strains, pressures, and stresses of our lives and have an enjoyable time.

May we have fun in the adventure before us—different activities or just chilling out—in all that we enjoy away from home and our ordinary routines of life.

If we worship you in unfamiliar surroundings, in a different style, may we be able to express our adoration and praise and hear you speaking to us in a fresh way.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given us Lord “to get away from it all”.

May we return home refreshed—whole people again—to serve you and the community where you have placed us.

May we not forget you as we go, but instead take you with us.

*(continues →)*

Relax and enjoy your summer. Safe travels!

**Addendum:** Martin H. Manser was born in 1952 in Bromley, Kent and has been a professional reference-book editor since 1980. He has also compiled and edited many titles that encourage Bible reading, including the 'NIV Thematic Study Bible' and 'NRSV Cross-Reference Bible'. He has been a member for many years in a Baptist church in his home town of Aylesbury, England.

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**From the Council****Coleman Bye**

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There are several characteristics of servant leadership. Servant leaders are those who put the needs of others before the needs of their own and are always focused on the good of the greater cause rather than personal gain. They focus on the people first, then the organization, knowing that by building their people they are building a stronger organization. Even churches work to build their organization, which is their congregation, and develop people by making disciples of God; a characteristic that is rooted in our mission statement. Leaders that can focus on and care about the development of others are able to build and grow leaders around them. Organizations that can grow leaders are able to grow their organization. For Christian leaders, it is important for them to remember that the source of their strength is in God as is said in Matthew 19:26 "but with God all things are possible".

In the Gospel of John 13:14-17, on the night in which Jesus was betrayed, John recounts how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples saying <sup>14</sup>"Now that I, your Lord, and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup>I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

St. Philip's is blessed with many, many servant leaders. We need to utilize the opportunities that will come with the construction of our new church. The time is now for everyone in our congregation to look within ourselves and follow the examples that Jesus Christ demonstrated to his disciples. Through servant leadership we can carry out the mission of St. Philip's: *"make disciples, praise God, and serve the community."*

6/12/2023

03:39p

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

**Treasurer's Report by Major Group**

May of Fiscal Year 2023

Responsibility: All

Fund: 01 - General

	May Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Percent of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Group 00	41,320.56	200,432.87	197,084.20	101.70%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>41,320.56</b>	<b>200,432.87</b>	<b>197,084.20</b>	<b>101.70%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Administration	2,088.83	20,901.23	14,708.40	142.10%
Committees	14,313.15	60,498.86	73,658.35	82.13%
Pastor	10,441.04	53,476.91	52,789.20	101.30%
Staff	8,144.00	52,570.00	81,505.10	64.50%
Utilities	1,491.16	10,293.80	7,583.35	135.74%
Benevolence	1,458.33	7,291.65	7,291.65	100.00%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>37,936.51</b>	<b>205,032.45</b>	<b>237,536.05</b>	<b>86.32%</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>3,384.05</b>	<b>-4,599.58</b>	<b>-40,451.85</b>	





# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

join

July 23, 2023, 3:00 PM

Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO

## In Recital

St. Philips Lutheran Church  
5320 Limestone Rd  
Wilmington, DE 19808

A free-will offering will be accepted at the door.



# Small Groups Return September 2023!!

In September we will start the first of four sessions of Small Group Studies that will run through the program year. You can join all of them or come and go as your interest/time allow.



## Water in the Bible - Sept/Oct 2023

Water is an important biblical symbol - so important that we use it in baptism today. It is used in scripture from the very start of creation to the very end with the New Heaven and New Earth. Water was important to the people of Jesus time and location for life. How does this symbolic necessity speak deep meaning to the people of the bible, but also to us today?



## JESUS EATS WITH EVERYONE

## Biblical Meals/Hospitality - Nov/Dec 2023

People are always gathering for meals in scripture, but it is normally not just to eat. Typically in the hospitality shown in the bible, there is a larger message of blessing and welcome both for the host and guest. Did you know that hospitality is one of the most important themes in the entire bible? How can we learn from scripture how we are to welcome one another in grace?





**The Holy Spirit - Mar/Apr 2024**

Let’s be honest: we don’t understand the Holy Spirit at all. We talk about this third person of the Trinity all the time, but what is the Holy Spirit and how does it work? Why do we care? Can’t we just stick with Jesus? And why is the understanding of the Holy Spirit different in different books of the bible? Explore why the Holy Spirit is so important to us as God’s Church.



**Resurrection - Apr/May 2024**

Okay, let’s get to the heart of our faith . . . What happens to us when we die? What will we look like? Will we recognize our loved ones? Do we get partially raised while we wait for the end of the world? It is bodily resurrection or just spiritual? New life and resurrection are the heart of our faith - come explore this complex idea that is at the heart of Christianity.



**Small Group Registration - Cut and Drop in Offering Plate**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Session Registering for: ☐ Water ☐ Meals/Hospitality ☐ Holy Spirit ☐ Resurrection

Group I prefer to be in: ☐ Men’s ☐ Women’s ☐ Mixed Gender ☐ Tuesday Morning

**HELP BUILD OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH!**

Build relationships, meet new people, find an activity that works for you!

The **NURSERY** will be open during both services during the summer.

**SUMMER OF SERVICE** continues throughout the summer.

- Thanks to those who provided items for our **Tower of Food**. Our St. Philip's pantry received items for the Grocery Club; Our Mission Kids will deliver items to St. Stephen's pantry on July 8 when they will help stock the shelves and learn about food insecurity.

- **School Supplies for E.A.G.L.E.S. and St. Philip's Grocery Club** will be collected throughout July. These supplies will be sorted and boxed in early August. If you are able to donate supplies please sign up using the sign up genius.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4FA5AF2CA6FE3-school>

- **25,000 Meals** will be made on the morning of August 26. This is a community event so invite your friends and neighbors. Help fund this project, using the envelopes in the narthex. Sign up on the sign up genius to help on August 26.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA5AB2BA7FE3-250002>

The **YOUTH GROUP** will travel to Erie, PA on July 9 for their annual work-camp. They will join other groups and make home repairs for residents.

The **NEW PROGRAM YEAR** will kick off on Rally Day September 10. Kid's Club, Breakfast Club and the Adult Small Groups will resume. A new group for Younger Adults will also begin. Look for more information about these programs in the coming weeks.

Check out the **Lending Library** in room 128 where you'll find bible reference books and books by Christian authors with a wide range of topics. Use the sign out sheet if you want to borrow a book; when you return the book sign it in and drop it in the basket next to the book shelves.



## Summer of Service 2023

**Exciting things are coming,  
Watch for more Information!**

### **JULY. School Supplies for E.A.G.L.E.S. and St. Philip's Grocery Club**

- Sign up to donate supplies for the Dominican Republic school and our Grocery Club.
- Help pack up supplies for shipment

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4FA5AF2CA6FE3-school>

### **AUGUST. 25,000 MEALS - A Community Event on August 26**

- Help fund this project (\$0.35/meal = \$8750)
- Assemble meals on Saturday morning
- Invite friends and neighbors to help
- Meals go to St. Stephen's pantry and the Delaware Food Bank

[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA5AB2BA7FE3-250002](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA5AB2BA7FE3-250002)

We hope you are having a fantastic summer. Our next Mission Kids event is Saturday, July 8th. We will transport the food collected throughout June (Tower of Food) and take the items over to St Stephens to help stock their food pantry. This is a great opportunity for the kids to see how we help others in need, specifically those with food insecurity. Afterwards we will head to the Deweese House for a pool party and lunch. Feel free to attend one or both events based on your availability!

#### Rough Timeline of events

- 9am: meet at St Philips to load cars with food and drive to St Stephens
- 10am: unload all food and help restock the shelves
- 11am: head to the Deweese's house for lunch & a pool party

Please sign up below to let us know you are coming and what you would like to bring to the pool party. Burgers, hot dogs and chicken will be provided.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4BACAF2FA7F94-mission>

This will be our only event in the summer. Here's sneak peek into our fall plans:

- September: Rally Day to kick off the education year (September 10th)

\*\*\*Consider joining Kids Club in the fall. We currently have 7 highly energetic and enthusiastic kiddos who join us on a weekly basis at 9:15am throughout the education year. This year Sandy Budd and I have an entire curriculum centered around the parables and incorporating Lego into each lesson. This past year, the kids loved integrating Lego into some of our lessons/stories, so we took that interest and found a curriculum we feel they will really enjoy!

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- October: Trunk or Treat at Sycamore Hill Church in Hockessin (date TBD, typically the last Saturday before Halloween)
- November: Friendsgiving (November 11th)
- December: Advent workshop (December 3rd)

**St. Philip's Summer of Service** - In July we are collecting school supplies for the children in Grocery Club and for The Foundation of E.A.G.L.E.S.

The supplies for the Foundation of E.A.G.L.E.S. will be shipped to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. This is a non-profit organization whose mission is to represent God's love through Education, Art, Enrichment, and Service. Their vision is to provide education and enrichment programs for out-of-school children that cultivate and support the body, mind, soul, and spirit of each student to become a faithful and diligent servant of Jesus Christ our Lord.

A list of the school supplies that are needed for the students and teachers has been created on a SignUp Genius (link below). School supplies will be collected through the month of July. On August 6th the congregation is invited to help sort and package the supplies that have been donated. We will be getting them ready to be either shipped to Santo Domingo or delivered to the children of the Grocery Club. The founder of The Foundation of E.A.G.L.E.S., Catherine Howard, will also be here that day to help gather the supplies and answer any questions that you may have for the foundation.

As always, thank you so much for your generosity! It truly means the world to these kids to start their school year out with beautiful, brand-new supplies!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4FA5AF2CA6FE3-school>





St Philips girls at their dance performance in May! Allie Pouser, Brea Stirk and Molly Grieder



Ministries at St. Philip's from Koinonia

Sharon Kittle and Gigi Mueller

**Koinonia:** If you're looking for a small group that has fellowship, food and support for one another a koinonia group (Greek for fellowship) might be right for you! One group's next meeting is **taking a pause for the summer**. A second group, that meets with the Mueller's, that Koinonia group will meet on **Sunday, August 13th at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Mueller gazebo , for lively discussion. Look for topics to be coming soon. Please let Gigi Mueller know if you have any questions and if you are coming. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.



## **Women of St. Philip's**

Join us for a happy hour pool party on

**Saturday, July 7th at 4:00 p.m.**

We'll gather at the home of Joann Stevens for fellowship and a dip in the pool for anyone who wants to jump in.

Bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share along with your beverage of choice.

It will be so nice to gather together and reconnect.

RSVP by emailing Dawn Downes.



The Women's Daytime Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 1230 at Gigi's. The discussion is on, BY HER OWN DESIGN, by Piper Huguley. If you are interested in leading the discussion, please let Gigi know. The date for August is Tuesday, August 15.

Mark you calendars for FALL REFLECTIONS, our annual womens fall retreat, October 28. All are invited as well as friends and neighbors.

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**From Women's Book Club**

**Dawn Downes and Donna Daugherty**



The Women's Evening Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our time together is much like a happy hour with good friends! Feel free to bring a snack or beverage to share. If you have any questions please contact Dawn Downes or Donna Daugherty. We would love to have you join us. Everyone is welcome!

Our upcoming reads are:

July: All We Ever Wanted - Emily Giffin

Aug: Summer Island - Kristin Hannah

Sep: Horse - Geraldine Brooks

*Delaware Maryland Synod*

# **Holy Land Pilgrimage**

***Jan. 29 - Feb. 08, 2024***

***Washington, DC (IAD)***

***Package Price: \$3990***



Pr. Kati Kluckman-Ault

## **Package Includes:**

- † **Roundtrip Airfare**
- † **All nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels**
- † **Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily**
- † **Ten days sightseeing in modern air-conditioned private bus**
- † **English speaking government licensed Christian tour guide on duty**
- † **And much more**

If you are interested in joining Pastor Patrick on this wonderful adventure, just let him know you are interested - no commitments needed yet . . . Just let us know your interest.





**St. Philip's photographer!?!?! We're looking for volunteers that could take pictures at our events! Often time we are at the event and realize we don't have anyone to capture the moment we want to share. Contact the Church Office if you would like to be our photographer!**

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## **Ministries at St. Philip's - Worship Assistants**

**Pastor Patrick or Louse James**

**Worship Assistants Are Needed!!!** We could use everyone's help as we work through this pandemic time. A small group of us have taken on the task of leading worship and ushering and greeting during the pandemic. Before COVID, we had a huge team doing this task. We need our worship assistants to begin returning to their jobs. We also would love to welcome new servants into this ministry. Contact Louise James if you are willing to help.

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Dear St. Philip's Church,  
Thank you so much for everyone's thoughts, prayers, and kind words during this time. It means a lot to us to know that we can lean on you all to get through this. All of your support has been such a blessing.  
With Gratitude,  
Ellen Lenker and Family

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**Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group Continues to Meet at St. Philip's** - The Alzheimer's Assn. of the Delaware Valley is sponsoring a monthly support group for anyone who has a loved one with any form of dementia, including Alzheimer's. Living with or caring for a person with dementia can be extremely challenging, overwhelming and exhausting. The group offers education, support, and the opportunity to connect with others in a similar situation. Free and open to the public, the group will meet on the **second Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on **July 11th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Bonnie Chauvot.



**Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!!** If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **July 13th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in the Social Hall here at church. If you are interested in being a part or learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

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**Ministries at St. Philip's**

**Ellen Lenker and Sharon Holeman**

**Pinner and Knotter**, a longtime ministry at St. Philip's, is meeting on the **third Wednesday of the month at noon in the Fellowship Hall**, and always seeks new volunteers for this important work. Ellen Lenker or any current worker can answer any questions about the ongoing projects. Consider joining for the fellowship, a chance to be creative, and continue this important ministry. The Pinner and Knotter will be taking a pause for the summer.

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**Ministries at St. Philip's - Care Kits**

**David & Donna Porter**

**CARE KITS for homeless persons are available** under the coat rack in the narthex. Consider picking up one or two to share with homeless persons you may encounter in your travels. Thanks to Teri Suddard and Jodi Newcomer who developed this initiative a few years ago, and to Dave and Donna Porter for updating the kits.

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**Ministries at St. Philip's - Shepherd's**

**Sally Krapf**

The next Shepherding Team Meeting will be on Monday, August 14th at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Food Insecurity due to inflation is on the Rise! Can you help?** Food demand still continues to be very high. If you are at the grocery store or if someone goes for you, you can pick up needed items and drop them in the box in the narthex. We are especially in need of: **Pasta, Pasta Sauce** (cans are best and Dollar Store has good prices), Shelf **Milk (2%, Almond Breeze, Whole, or Soy** – Again, the Dollar Store is a good source), **Mac & Cheese, Cereal, Canned Vegetables, Toilet Paper, Salt & Pepper, Crackers, Coffee, Tea Bags, Cake Mix/Frosting.** Thank you so much for your generosity!!

**GROCERY CLUB CLOTHING**

We have been getting requests from members for clothing, so Grocery Club is once again accepting donations. We are especially in need of children’s clothing of all sizes but are also looking for men’s and women’s clothing. Summer clothing is preferred. Please contact Nancy Zinnato if you have items to donate.

**GROCERY CLUB**

**Wednesday, July 12, 2023 and July 26, 2023**  
**And**  
**Wednesday, August 9, 2023 and August 23, 2023**



Thank all of you who gave your time and support to our host families.

We had 4 families who were so grateful for all we were able to provide.

Our next hosting will be the week 8/27 through 9/3.

Blessing, Rebecca & Marty

**FAMILY PROMISE**

**Our Next Host Week: August 27, 2023 to September 3, 2023**



**Family Promise®**

Building community, strengthening lives.

## THE EFFECTS OF RACIAL HATRED

In early June, a 58 year old white women in St. Petersburg, Florida was charged with shooting and killing her black neighbor, a 35 year old mother of four. The killing occurred through a locked front door, with neither person seeing the other.

The shooter admitted to police that she called the victim's children "the n-word", and that on the evening in question she "came out of her house and gave the children the middle finger", and also said, "Get away from my house, you black slave."

Describing her state of the mind, the shooter told police that she had problems for two years with the neighborhood children not respecting her, including the victim's children. On the day of the shooting, she stated that she had a headache, and that the neighbors were outside screaming and running around. The shooter went outside and threw a pair of roll skates at the children, hitting one of them. When the victim came and "banged" on her door, she claims to have feared for her life.

The legal outcome resulting from this tragic chain of events is likely a year or more away. While the legal outcome will be significant for the individuals and the families involved, the underlying cause and effect of why this killing occurred has far more reaching consequences.

I am always troubled by stories like this, and begin to wonder, "Why?" What leads a person to take the life of another? What was in her mind, and how did she get to the point where the taking of another human life was the inevitable outcome? Respect and understanding – or the lack thereof – are, to me, the larger issues. Respect for the life cut short. Respect for the children who lost their mother. Understanding of an older woman living alone. Likely none of the people involved with this tragedy had any respect for or understanding of one another. Instead, hatred reared its ugly head.

In Mark 12:31, Jesus tells us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." The command to love your neighbor appears eight different times in the Bible. When Jesus was asked, "Who is my neighbor?", he responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

So how do we love our neighbor? We love people by genuinely seeking what is best for them. Loving someone does not mean always agreeing with what they say or do. Loving our neighbors means attending to their needs – both physical and spiritual. We love our neighbors when we, like the Samaritan in Jesus' parable, have compassion for them and help meet their needs as we are able.

Relating this to the killing in St. Petersburg, love for one's neighbor never entered the picture. Instead of trying to understand and respect one another, racial discord was at the forefront of the events leading to the death of a black mother at the hands of a white women who espoused racial hatred. Love. Compassion. Caring. And, Grace. If we learn nothing more from this heart-breaking story, let us show the world, as Christians, the love that we have for all of God's children.

We made personal care kits in spring 2022 as a joint project with Unity Church. See how our Outreach changes lives across the globe!





As the July Guidepost goes to "press," Outreach committee members are looking forward to a great musical lineup at the **Christian Music Festival on Saturday June 25th**. We hope you plan to join us and invite friends to this fun event. A big thank you to Chuck Cory for organizing this event.

Another successful **Family Promise** week happened at the beginning of June. A big thank you to everyone who donated supplies and cooked and served dinner each night during the week of June 5th. Rebecca Bardenhagen and Marty Budd did a wonderful job of organizing everything and providing a consistent presence for families and volunteers during the week. They needed to be creative as a new family of five joined the FP program during the week and needed to be fed with only a few hours notice.

**Lutheran Day at the Capitol** was a really enjoyable event on **June 8th** sponsored by the Lutheran Office of Public Policy and organized by Pastor Gordon Simmons. Forty attendees from ten different churches across Delaware gathered at Legislative Hall in Dover. Pastor Simmons led us in a hymn, scripture readings, and prayer, followed by remarks from Bishop Gohl, who spoke about how Lutherans have always belonged in the public square, as Christians are called to be "repairer of the breach, restorer of streets" (Isaiah 58:12). The bishop explained that worship drives us back into the world to be the body of Christ alive in the world.

After worship, we heard from several lawmakers about their legislative priorities and perspectives, which ranged from environmental justice, clean energy, affordable housing, public safety, and education to appropriations and capital spending bills for the next fiscal year beginning July 1st. Each attendee also had one or two meetings set up with a legislator -- typically someone from their own district -- to talk about any topic of interest. Pastor Simmons clearly put in a great deal of time and effort to set up the event and all the individual appointments for those in attendance. He also gave the opening prayer at the beginning of the Senate session that afternoon as a gaggle of Lutherans watched from the public gallery above. His leadership of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy will certainly be missed as he "retires" from this volunteer position at the end of the legislative session!

One of the prayers offered during worship: "Almighty God, our heavenly Father, bless the public servants in the government of Delaware, that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Help them use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

**Next Outreach Meeting:** Monday August 14 at 7 p.m. at St Philip's. Join us to plan the upcoming program year.





From Gordon Simmons Lutheran Day at the Capitol

LUTHERAN DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Forty members from ten different Delaware Lutheran congregations gathered at Legislative Hall in Dover on June 8 for a “Lutheran Day at the Capitol.” Filling the Senate Hearing Room, the group listened to a series of Senators and Representatives on legislation related to housing, the budget, firearms, the environment, feeding the hungry, and taxation.

Most of those attending were also able to have constituent meetings with their legislators in their offices to further discuss issues.

Lutheran Day at the Capitol has a long history in Delaware, but it had not been held at Legislative Hall for at least ten years.



Bishop  
Bill Gohl



Sue and Jerry  
Hoecker from St.  
Andrew’s,  
Dover



Representative  
Larry Lambert



Lynne Landry  
from St.  
Mark’s,  
Wilmington



Senator Trey  
Paradee from  
Dover



Gordon Simmons,  
Public Policy  
Officer for the DE  
Lutheran Office  
for Public Policy,  
gives the prayer to  
open the session of  
the Senate.

## POTLUCKS ARE FANTASTIC!

One really interesting characteristic of the people of St. Philip's is that we *LOVE* to *EAT*!! Every time we turn around, we come up with an excuse to have a meal together—potluck dinners seeming to be our favorite! The variety of dishes shared is amazing, and there's something for everyone...even for our picky eaters! None of this surprises me, though. There are some fabulous cooks at St. Philip's who are indeed richly blessed by God with exceptional talent.

Our congregation *IS* a potluck, too! We are such a blessed and wonderfully diverse congregation—not only attending worship but also getting involved in St. Philip's abundant ministries! With such a variety from which to choose, there are plenty to pique our interests, passions, and desires. What wonderful opportunities to make the world a better place!

Most of us understand the seasons in the first half of the church's liturgical calendar because those seasons are all about Jesus' life while he lived here on Earth as a man. Each season, from Advent through Easter, highlights and celebrates his earthly journey—from the anticipation of his birth through his victorious resurrection. That half of the church year ends with Pentecost, at which time we commemorate the Holy Spirit coming to all believers. Jesus promised and assured His believers that the Holy Spirit would come: *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* Acts 1:4b-5

Following our Pentecost celebration, we enter the second half of the church year—the Sundays after Pentecost. What do we celebrate during this next, very long season? We use this time to remember, examine, reflect, and give God glory for what He accomplishes through his church. From the time the Holy Spirit came to them, the believers grew into a family, the early church. *“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”* Acts 2:42-47

Take a moment to look around St. Philip's and see God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit working through each and every one of us as we strive to live out St. Philip's mission statement: *“As an inclusive and caring congregation, our mission is to make disciples, praise God and serve the community.”* These words are our way of life. The Holy Spirit uses us to be God's heart, hands, and voices here on Earth. Just like in the early church, as new people join us, they become a part of our church family. They join us in serving others, worshipping together and enjoying fellowship with each other. The Spirit works in each of us, using our unique sets of talents, to make a wonderful, diverse “potluck” church family. Thanks be to God for bringing us all together!

Summer time greetings to everyone!!

Blessings to all from Altar Guild & Bread Ministry members – We are always looking for new members – and if you have given a thought to “What would I like to do as part of my ministry for St. Philips” Altar Guild and the Bread Ministry team are here to welcome you – We meet approximately 4 times a year – Everyone is assigned on our quarterly schedules – approximately 2 or 3 times a quarter – and it entails – approximately 1 ½ – 2 hrs the weekend you are assigned. Bread Ministry entails making the bread and bringing it to church for Sunday Services – you are assigned usually 5 times in the year. Don't worry – if this isn't your area to get involved we understand – there are so many areas to share your particular expertise / excitement.

I want to say a special THANK YOU to everyone on Altar Guild and the Bread Ministry Team for their continued support and dedication - also to Tom & Pam Brenneman and their team for taking care of changing the banners as the liturgical calendar evolves. Our next meeting is September 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the social hall – come out and see what we are all about.

If any questions/concerns – you can contact Carol Oesterbo.

Have a safe and blessed Summer

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**From ministries outside of St. Philip's**

**David Kenney**

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Picture of the St. Philip's Sponsored Hole at the LCS Golf Outing!



## **“Wild Feelings” and Great Success**



In the closing days of the 2022-23 school year, students at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center were concentrating on their math and STEM skills. Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, says students performed several chemistry experiments. “(One) experiment was called ‘Bean in the bag.’ During that experiment we placed two paper towels (one wet and one dry) into a zip-lock bag with 3-4 beans and watched what changed about the beans over a few days. The last experiment we tried was ‘Fishing for ice’ in which the students tried to pick up a piece of ice using string and table salt from a cup of water.”



In addition, Teresa says students completed grade appropriate social emotional learning. “One activity...completed by our rockstar kindergarteners and first graders was called ‘Wild Feelings’ where they would choose a feeling to draw and write a sentence about it. An activity completed by our fabulous second and third graders was ‘Feeling Faces’ where they had to match each feeling with the correct picture of a face. Our outstanding fourth, fifth and sixth graders completed an activity called ‘What’s Max Feeling’ where they used pictures from the story we read to describe the character Max’s feelings.”

Now, a couple of success stories. Thousands of children have passed through the doors of the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center over the decades. Among these are many children who have grown up and made a positive mark on Society. One of those recent examples is Kiah Spinks, a summer camp participant for several years. According to former Executive Director, Jea Street, “in the early 1980's (Kiah) was one of a group of participants to go to Federal Court to see Theo Gregory prosecute the KKK. When we left the courthouse (one) day, she said she wanted to be a lawyer. On June 12, 2023 she was sworn in as a Judge in Manassas, Virginia.” Congratulations, Judge Spinks!

Finally, numerous children, too numerous to count, have “graduated” from Hilltop over the last 60 plus years the center has been serving the Hilltop Community. All of those children are special, but this year there is one graduate who stands out. According to former Center Executive Director Street, “SaNiyah ...has been a student throughout her childhood. She began to receive scholarships for college in 7th grade. She graduated from Delcastle High (in June) with a 5.0 gpa . She is the great granddaughter of Sylvia Kee. Ms Kee (affectionately known to us as Ms. Chubby) was the Hilltop Cook for several decades, beginning in 1971.” Congratulations, SaNiyah!

*Eric F. Mease  
Member, Board of Directors  
Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center*

## Remember Us When You Pray

*We believe in the power of prayer, so please remember to keep the following persons and their families in your prayers. Even if you do not know them it means so much to them to know that they are remembered in our daily prayer lives. Also, it would be a wonderful gift for them to hear from their church family:*

### ***We Pray for the Members of St. Philip's:***

Ron Henry, Russ Hokanson, Judi Parsons, John & Barb Williams, Dave Frampton, Ruth Bowles, Lois Hardy, John Newcomer, Sr., Carol Ruckle, Lamont & Sharon Smith, Louise James, Ethel Reichley, Shawn Nascembeni, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sam Cory, Richard Pierce, Daniel & Phyllis Bolgiano, Phyllis Brown, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Lauren Conrad, Charles Bowles, Leo and Lorraine Velez, Mark and Yvonne Cilento, Charlie Boss, Carol Goodman, The Family of Barb Hokanson

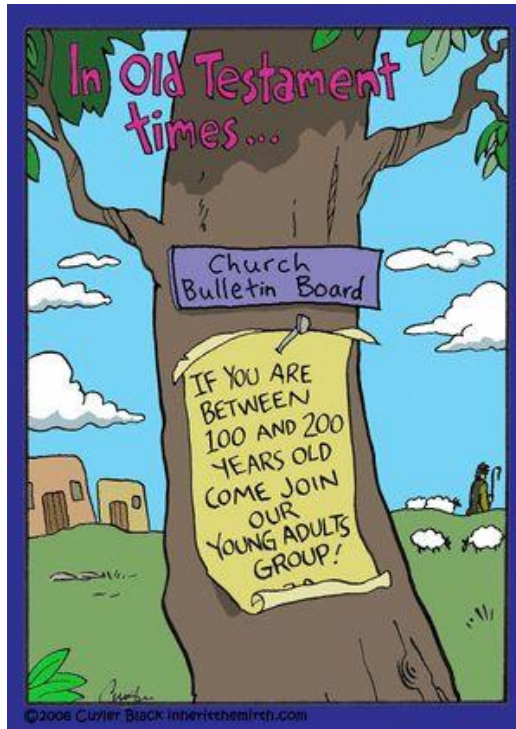
***We Pray for our Loved Ones:*** *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Jeff Oliver**, friend of Jodi Newcomer; **our soldiers serving overseas and their families**; **Lois Seay**, sister of Lorraine Velez; **Michael Sinovich & Family, The Colazzo Family**, friends; **Ruth DiDonato**, sister, **Family of Earl & Irene Meyer**, aunt and uncle of Linda Burkum; **Donna Miller**, sister of Debbi Miller; **Emily Ruckle**, granddaughter & **Tina Davis**, niece of Carol Ruckle; **John & Carly Hoeni**, family of Lynn Muller; **Beckie McNelly**, sister of Bob Gibble & Barb Williams; **Lou Cookson**, father of Nick Cookson; **Beth Cookson**, mother of Nick Cookson; **The Greer Family**, friends of Bob Warner; **Dorothy Owens**, sister of Ruth Henry; **Stuart Emerson & Family**, friends of the Swift Family; **Jacob Buckworth & Dawn Cupsie**, grandson & daughter of Lamont & Sharon Smith; **Donald Oesterbo, Jr.**, son of Carol Oesterbo; **Jaxson Davis and Family**; friends of Heather Nolan; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simperts; **Mary Jane Myers**, mother of Mark Myers; **Joe Cilento, Jr. and Mark**, sons of Yvonne Cilento; **Lee and Patricia Craig**, friends of Scott & Sandy Budd; **Greg Moore**, friend, **David Martin**, nephew, **Diane Balinski**, niece, **Debra Jennings**, daughter & **Barney Jennings**, son-in-law of Russ Hokanson; **Dolores Nolan**, mother of Tom Nolan; **Jansen Family**, family of Dan and Phyllis Bolgiano; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Jermaine & Joslyn Sanders**, friends of Nancy Zinnato; **Phyllis Mensinger**, niece of Mark & Marge Davis; **Carol Henzy**, sister of Beth Molnar; **Danny Brown**, uncle of Trevor Freburger; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **John, Sr. & Anna Longo**, parents of John Longo; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott Budd; **Lew & Donna Longhenry**, parents of Bryan Longhenry; **Steve Gibson**, friend of Jean Kunkle; **Walter Stadelberger**, brother of Paul Stadelberger; **The Family of Robert Schuh**, brothers family of Diana Longhenry; **Martin Page and Family**, friends of Mike Rosen; **Norman Richards**, brother-in-law of Mark & Marge Davis; **Brian Gale**, son of Nancy Gale; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Marie Lion**, sister-in-law of John & Ginny Lion; **B J Lawson**, daughter of Jean Kunkle; **Ken Worme**, close friend of Bob and Delores Wardwell; **Family of Rosemary Herron**, Loved ones of Edna Basilio; **Henry Houtmann**, grandson of Anne Hamilton; **The Family of Brad Scott**, friends of the Brennemans; **Erich Molnar and Chris Allen**, son and relative of Beth Molnar; **Bob Gilmour**, friend of Donna & Monika Daugherty; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman





Lynn Pouser	7/1	Donna Porter	8/1
Breanna Swift	7/1	Steven Salvatelli	8/1
Allie May Pouser	7/5	Coleman Bye, III	8/2
Shawn Nascembeni	7/8	Sarah Swift	8/3
Cathy Snyder	7/8	Pam Brenneman	8/4
Constance Vierung	7/8	Brady Bollman	8/5
Sarah Mack	7/10	Cynthia Hamlin	8/6
Sandra Mutschler	7/10	Thomas Krapf, III	8/10
Sharon Smith	7/10	Nicole Sheffer	8/10
Edna Basilio	7/11	Janet Shechter	8/10
William Cavalier	7/12	Rev. David Mueller	8/11
Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pysher	7/13	Lincoln McDonough	8/11
David Culley	7/13	Kylie Stirk	8/11
Paul Gelesh	7/13	John Reichley	8/12
Lamont Smith	7/13	Marjorie Davis	8/13
Richard Palmer	7/14	Ryan Myers	8/13
Isabella Garbacz	7/16	Pam Maciey	8/16
Jean Miller	7/17	Corie Sheffer	8/17
Tyler Basilio	7/18	Ryan Grieder	8/18
Sandy Budd	7/18	Helen Pierce	8/18
Cameron Hewlett	7/19	Grace Mason	8/18
Lee Derr	7/21	Alexis Everett	8/24
Richard Kittle	7/22	Liam Kennedy	8/25
Tyler Bye	7/23	Christi David	8/25
Carol Johnson	7/23	Al Cavalier	8/26
John Newcomer Jr.	7/23	Dolly Frampton	8/27
Margaret Wagner	7/23	Katie Mack	8/27
Kendra Garbacz	7/24	Luke DeWeese	8/30
Beth Molnar	7/24	Benjamin Start	8/30
Robert Cockerill	7/24	Mary Kay LaRue	8/31
Tom Nolan	7/24	Natalie McDonough	8/31
Erich Bollman	7/26		
Victor David	7/27		
Anne Hamilton	7/27		
Lori Bowles	7/28		
Aubrey Mutschler	7/29		
Jackson Witherspoon	7/29		
Natalia David	7/30		

May God Bless You on  
Your Special Day!



Please call the church office at 302-239-2100 when:

- You or a member of your family is sick or in the hospital
- You are planning a meeting or scheduling an event so it can be placed on the church calendar, in the bulletin, and in the Guidepost.
- A baby is expected in your family.
- You want to arrange for a baptism or a wedding.
- Your telephone number, address or email address has changed or you are planning to move, locally or out of town.
- You have a prayer request.
- You feel the church can help you in any way.

## Who Does What at St. Philip's

### **Staff:**

Rev. Patrick V. Downes, Senior Pastor  
Dr. Stephen Benscoter, Music Director  
Dr. Lauren Conrad, Director of Choir Ministry  
Lisa Kalinowski, Office Administrator  
.....email: stphilipswilmington@gmail.com

### **Officers:**

Gerry Butler, President  
Joann Stevens, Vice President  
Teri Suddard, Treasurer  
Amanda DeWeese, Secretary  
Mike Berkheimer, Financial Secretary

### **Council:**

Jerry Aunet  
Coleman Bye  
Liz Freburger  
Matt Grieder  
Carol Johnson

### **Council (continues):**

John Longo  
Debbi Miller  
Shawn Nascembeni  
Dave Porter

### **Committees/Activities:**

Altar Guild.....	Carol Oesterbo
Christian Education.....	Sharon Kittle
Fellowship.....	Jane Newcomer
	Pam Sheffer
Finance/Audit.....	Coleman Bye
Grocery Club.....	Nancy Zinnato
Outreach.....	Susan Mack
Prayer Ministry.....	Contact Church Office
Property.....	Dave Frampton
.....	Mark Myers
Racial Justice Task Force	Phil Duncan
Worship and Music.....	Louise James

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

5320 Limestone Road

Wilmington, DE 19808

Phone: (302) 239-2100

Website: [www.stphilips.us](http://www.stphilips.us)

Address Service Requested

### ***Sunday Morning Schedule***

8:00 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Large Group, Christian Ed for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary

\*\* Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall Between Services