

The Guidepost



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



December 2023



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

Holy Land Trip Postponed!!!!

As most of you are aware, we had a group of about 23 people from St. Philip's scheduled to travel to the Holy Land in January. We were all looking forward to "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" as we made our way through many of the places that Jesus would have walked when he was on Earth. I know I was truly excited for this trip—it was something that I have wanted to do for more years than I can count.

However, the violence that currently exists in that region has caused us to postpone the trip. Although the primary violence is in the southern part of Israel in the area of Gaza there is simply too much risk in going to the region at this point. Even the United States State Department has travel bans in effect at this point.

So, our group will wait until there is an other opportunity to visit that region.

In the meantime, be sure to keep the people of Israel as well as the Palestinians in your prayers. While Hamas began this fight, it's important to remember that most people whether Jewish or Palestinian just want to live their lives in peace. And that is the Peace that God craves for all of us. We'll keep you posted on when a new trip is scheduled.



People of St. Philip's: it is a joy to be here as your Associate Pastor! Never did I think, in my wildest dreams, that I would be here serving a (fantastic) congregation in Wilmington, DE! And I sure am grateful!

I truly believe that the Lord was telling me something when I was in 5th grade and I was taking the 50 state test. Do you remember taking this? It's the test you took where you had a blank map of the U.S. in front of you and you had to fill in all the states. Now, I studied and studied for that test. I thought I had it all figured out. I thought that when I got that test back it would be a 50/50 - 100%. After getting my test back I couldn't help but notice the score at the top of the page: 48/50....What two states did I get wrong? Delaware and Maryland. The two states I never fully recognized, let alone remembered (for from Minnesota-Land, where I grew up, they seem like distant countries) were the two states that God would put on my radar in a major way. It is *Maryland* that God put on my radar in a big way because it is the state my husband, Zach, is from. And *Delaware*: the state I live in now and is where this amazing congregation is built off of Limestone Rd., the one I have been called to serve as one of the pastors: St. Philip's Lutheran Church. I share this for two reasons: 1.) to remind us that God has a sense of humor, and 2.) that our God is intentional and loves us beyond our understanding.

It is with excitement that I write this article because I see an incredibly loving, passionate, driven, devoted, and giving congregation at St. Philip's. It is an honor to serve with and alongside you. Pr. Patrick's and my doors are always open to you. We are in this together.

And thanks be to God! A blessed Advent to you all.





St. Philip's Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Vespers Service Times

Advent Devotional Service

Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th and 20th

6:30 p.m. Soup and Bread Dinner

7:00 p.m. Evening Vespers

St. Philip's Christmas Cantata

The Road to Bethlehem - A Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Cookies and Hot Chocolate Reception to follow

Christmas Concert

Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band

Monday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m.

The Longest Night Healing Service

A Winter Solstice Evening Service of Healing

Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Service (Christmas Eve Morning)

Worship Service with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

Family Christmas Eve Worship Service

with Holy Communion

6:30 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

with Holy Communion

8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

First Sunday after Christmas Service

Worship Service with Holy Communion

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

**Let's Fill Our Sanctuary with
Poinsettias for Christmas Eve!**

**If you wish to order poinsettias this year,
please fill out the form below by Sunday, December 10th
and return to the church office or drop it in
the offering plate.**

The cost per plant (red only) will be \$24.00 for 6.5" pots.

**The plants may be taken home
after any service on Christmas Eve.**

**Any poinsettias not picked up by
December 26th will be donated.**

**Please make your check payable to
St. Philip's Lutheran Church.**

Name: _____ Phone _____

Number of Poinsettias @ \$24.00 Each _____

Dedication:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

As we enter December, my thoughts, and I expect yours, turn to the wonderful season of Advent and Christmas. This will be a very busy time for Council as we review and finalize the 2024 budget to be presented to you, the Congregation, along with a variety of special projects that will also need your approval.

So, for my last letter of this year, I decided to focus on the fun and joy of the season, specifically the Christmas Hymns and Carols. I imagine, like me, you love the holiday music that we all share and sing. What would Advent be without “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” or “For Unto Us a Child Is Born”?

My favorite Christmas Hymns are O Come, All Ye Faithful and Joy to the World. I asked my husband what he would select for his favorites, and he replied, “O Little Town of Bethlehem” and “Silent Night.” These are special to him as they were sung by his father in a male quartet that traveled to churches in South Jersey and had a local radio show.

Although we don’t generally sing it in church, Handel’s Messiah is also wonderful. And, in our former church in Pitman, NJ, the Pastor’s wife each year did an amazing version of “O Holy Night”. Her version brought tears to our eyes.

I am guessing that you also have one or two favorites that make you smile, and perhaps they also connect you with something special in your life. And, don’t forget about dreaming of that White Christmas or Silver Bells or our good old buddy Rudolph. Here is my question to you: What are your two favorite Christmas hymns, carols, or tunes? Send me an e-mail. I will do a tally and post a list of St. Phillip’s favorites in a future column.

Wishing you the merriest of Holidays! May God bless you one and all.



“Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts as we welcome our new pastor to our church. We thank You for guiding and leading them to us, and we pray that You bless their ministry abundantly.

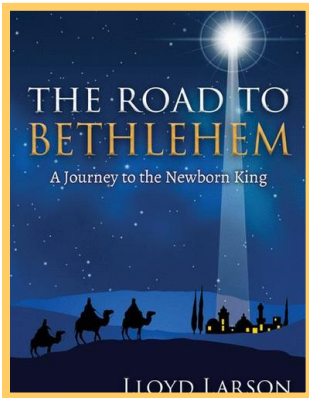
Grant our pastor wisdom and discernment as they shepherd Your flock. Fill them with compassion, love, and a deep understanding of Your Word. Help them to faithfully proclaim Your truth and guide us in our spiritual journey.

May our pastor be a source of encouragement, support, and inspiration to each member of our congregation. Grant them strength, courage, and perseverance as they lead us in worship, teach us Your ways, and walk alongside us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”

https://strengthenprayer.com/prayer-for-new-pastor/?expand_article=1

I’d like to welcome Pastor Amy Jensen-Wright to the St. Philip’s community! Pastor Amy brings such an abundance of joy, mirth and passion in both personal exchanges, as well as her expression of faith. While she has only been here for several weeks, I’m excited to see how she will energize the St. Philip’s programs, activities and worship service moving forward. If you have not had a chance, go up and introduce yourself and welcome our new associate pastor!





The Road to Bethlehem - A Christmas Cantata

Join us on **Sunday, December 10th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

Following the Cantata, we will gather for a cookie and
cocoa reception.



A Christmas Concert - Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band

Monday, December 11th, 2023
at 7:00 p.m.

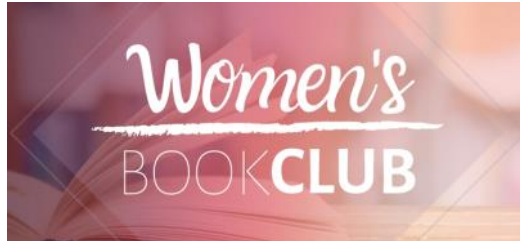


Longest Night Healing Service

Tuesday, December 19th, 2023
at 6:30 p.m.



Advent Vespers Service: - In this season of peace and joy, join us for a time of rest and peace in the middle of each week. On **Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th and 20th** we'll gather in the fellowship hall at **6:30 p.m.** for Soup and Bread Dinner (**a sign up poster to volunteer to bring soup or bread is in the narthex**), and then at about **7:00 p.m.** we will move to the sanctuary for the "Advent Devotional Service" Vespers Service. Come be refreshed by food and fellowship with God and one another.



The Daytime Women's Book Group will be having a Christmas Social on Monday, December 11th, from Noon to 3:00 pm, in the Fellowship hall. No book this month. Sandwiches will be provided. If you have a favorite holiday dessert, you can bring it to share.

Ministries at St. Philip's - Women's Evening Book Club**Dawn Downes and Donna Daugherty**



The Women's Evening Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall or individual homes. 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. Mark your calendars and plan to come... we hope you will join us. Everyone is welcome! Our upcoming reads are:

December 8 - Cookie Exchange and Poetry Sharing (My favorite night!)

January 12 - *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

February 9 - *We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza

March 8 - *the Mountain Sings* by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai

April - New Castle County Reads book - TBD



O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) is back! We will gather on Tuesday, December 12th. Our December meeting will be a Christmas Social. We will meet from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided! As part of our program we'll be doing some sharing called "These Are a Few of Our Favorite Things" - the Christmas version. Bring a dessert that is meaningful to you and/or bring a decoration or ornament that is special to you at Christmastime. We look forward to seeing you on the 12th!

From the Finance Committee

Teri Suddard

11/13/2023

10:52a

St. Philip's Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report by Major Group
 October of Fiscal Year 2023
 Responsibility: All
Fund: 01 - General

	October Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Percent of Budget
Income				
Group 00	50,984.19	413,047.17	394,168.40	104.79%
Total Income	50,984.19	413,047.17	394,168.40	104.79%
Expense				
Administration	1,366.42	31,730.36	29,416.80	107.86%
Committees	13,785.56	120,375.27	147,316.70	81.71%
Pastor	10,441.04	105,682.11	105,578.40	100.10%
Staff	8,556.22	94,996.39	163,010.20	58.28%
Utilities	2,513.97	18,422.36	15,166.70	121.47%
Benevolence	1,458.33	14,583.30	14,583.30	100.00%
Total Expense	38,121.54	385,789.79	475,072.10	81.21%
Income Less Expense	12,862.65	27,257.38	-80,903.70	



THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

A Journey to the Newborn King

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 10, 2023

7:00 p.m.

at St. Philip's Lutheran Church

LLOYD LARSON

Together in Faith



A Community Learning Experience for all Ages



Sunday, January 7, 2024

***9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

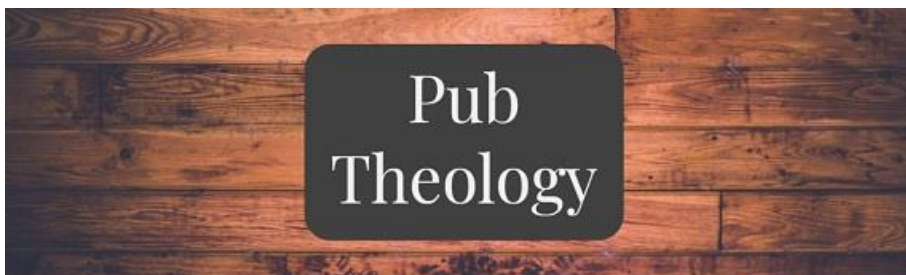
- Adults and Youth will share and fellowship
- Kid's Club will meet as usual.
- There will be a presentation about possible plans for the woodlands and wetlands behind the church. Use the sign up poster and/or sign up genius to volunteer to bring food.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-46222911-together>

***The Nursery Will Be Open!**

St Philip's is fortunate to have both Shepherds and Stephen Ministers. There seems to be some confusion as to what the difference is. All members/families of St Philips have a shepherd—someone to check on you periodically to see if you have any issues or prayer requests. A trained Stephen Minister is there for anyone going through an illness or depression or a crisis of some kind. This is a confidential relationship. It helps to have someone to just listen and care. Any questions, contact Gigi Mueller or Pastpr Patrick.

From Ministries at St. Philip's - Pub Theology**Pastor Amy**



Martin Luther once said: “*Whoever drinks beer*, they are quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink **beer!**”

Get excited because **Pub Theology** is back and beginning every 3rd Thursday, starting in January: Thursday, January 18th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Chuck Lager.

Pub Theology is all about open and honest, faith-filled conversations about things that matter. A table where all perspectives are welcome and appreciated. The format is simple: *beer, conversation, and God*. Come and bring your questions and thoughts, bring a friend, pull up a chair, and join Pastor Amy. You'll be able to share your own wrestling's and thoughts while learning something new along the way, and hey— there's likely to be a good craft beer you haven't tried yet! Cheers, Prost, Cin cin, Santé, and Salud!

Attention Parents!

**Need a Babysitter So You Can Do Some
Christmas Shopping or Just Get Out of the House??**

Attention parents: are you looking for a night when you are able to go Christmas Shopping? Would you like to go out for a quiet night without the kids? Or do you just want a night to rest your ears and nerves?

Either way, the youth group will be doing their

**Annual Babysitting Project and Activity Night on
Friday, December 1st from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

Drop your kids off and we'll have crafts, games, movies, video games,

Donations are suggested. All the funds we raise will go toward purchasing Christmas Gifts for the needy children that we have adopted through Hilltop. The more generous your "tip" the more generous the gifts we can buy.

Reserve your spot today by contacting Pastor Patrick!

CHILDREN'S ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 3rd, 2023

9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

St. Philip's Fellowship Hall



Make Advent and Christmas themed crafts.

Meet some new friends.

Socialize with other families and friends.

Invite a friend or neighbor! All Ages Welcome!

Please RSVP below by November 19th, so we can plan for enough craft supplies

There are two options: Fill out slip below and place in offering plate or
use the QR codes below!!!

Kids Sign Up-

<https://forms.gle/MWvMS5ast9M4PaR2A>

Volunteer Sign Up-

<https://forms.gle/v7cCFhC7nqBGgCLc7>

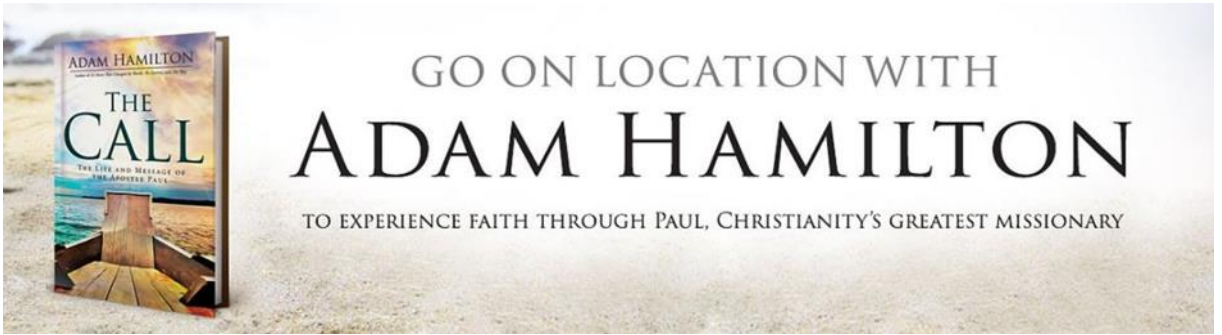


Number who will attend the Advent program: _____ adult's _____ children

can help with: _____ set up _____ clean-up _____ program activities/crafts

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____



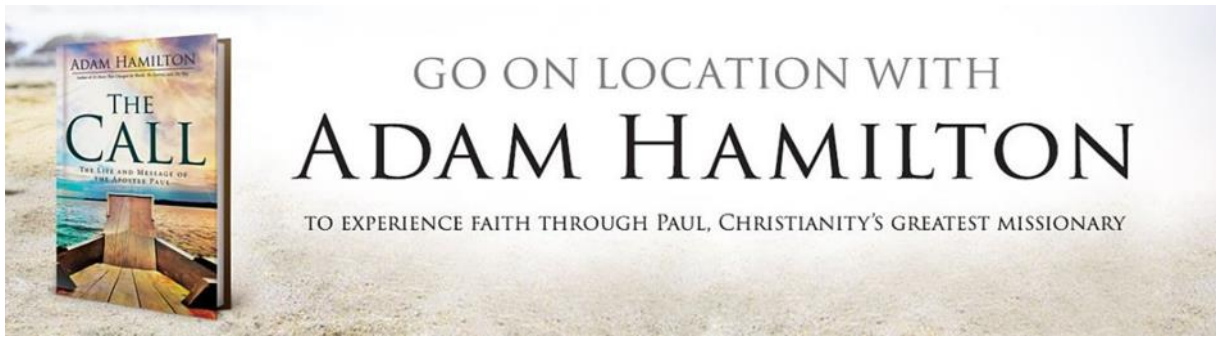
Join us For A Special Winter Video Series Journey Alongside the Most Famous Missionary, Paul

On Sunday Mornings January 14 - February 25, 2024 at 9:15 am
Classes will be held in the Social Hall Led By Pastor Patrick
and are all about The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul.

Called to Follow Christ
Called to Go
Called to Suffer
Called to Love
Called to Give
Called to be Faithful
The Call We Share

Everyone is invited to this class, whether you were registered for small groups or not. This is a whole church experience.





Session 1 January 14th: Called to Follow Christ

What was Paul's background? How did his conversion take place?
And what shape did his early ministry take?

Session 2 January 21st: Called to Go

Follow Paul along his first Missionary Journey

Session 3: January 28th: Called to Suffer

Follow Paul along his Second Missionary Journey

Session 4 February 4th: Called to Love

Paul's Second Missionary Journey Continues

Session 5 February 11th: Called to Give

Follow Paul along his Third Missionary Journey

Session 6 February 18th: Called to be Faithful

Paul's Death and Legacy

Session 7 February 25th: The Call We Share

Paul's Mission Continues in We Gentiles

HELP BUILD OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH!

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

The **Nursery** is open for both services and during the education hour in between services. Contact Maryann Shovestul if you have questions.

Our fall activities continue on Sunday morning and throughout the month. **Adult Bible Study** is finishing up the unit about Meals/Hospitality. **Rise and Shine, Breakfast Club, Kid's Club, Youth Group and Mission Kids** continue to meet.

The **Advent Workshop** will take place on **December 3 from 9:15-10:15** in the fellowship hall. Join us to make kid friendly Advent and Christmas crafts. Meet others from your St. Philip's family.

Looking ahead to the new year:

- There will be a **Together in Faith Breakfast on January 7 at 9:15**. There will be a presentation about possible plans for the woodlands and wetlands behind the church. Use the sign up poster and/or sign up genius to volunteer to bring food.

- A **Winter Video Series** led by Pastor Patrick will begin on **January 14 at 9:15** in the fellowship hall. The title of the series is "The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul." It will be in a large group setting; no registration needed....just drop in when you can.

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.

The Mission Kids have been very busy this fall! On October 28th, we went Trick or Treating through Hockessin and gathered for lunch at the Grieder's house. Our group consisted of Harry Potter, Princess Aurora, 2 Power Rangers, a witch, a police officer, Taylor Swift and a Swiftie! The kids had a great time kicking off Halloween week with this fun community event.

November 11th, we gathered in the Fellowship Hall for Friendsgiving. The evening was filled with food, games, and cookie decorating. Every year our table grows bigger and bigger! We hope even more families join us next year!

Join us December 3rd at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Advent workshop! The kids will learn about the Christmas Story, make crafts and enjoy a snack. Sign up below if your child is interested in participating or if you would like to volunteer to assist with this fun event. Stay tuned for our list of events coming in 2024!

Volunteer Sign Up-



Kids Sign Up-



Trick or
Treasure

and

Friendsgiving
2023



Rise and Shine! Hello young adults of St. Philip's! We are excited to share that we will be creating a new Sunday morning small group for the Fall 2023 programming! Our group name will be Rise and Shine. This group will be geared more towards the young adults of the church. Whether you are a parent that is dropping a kid off at Breakfast Club or Kid's Club or if you simply never found the right fit in another Sunday morning small group. We would like to welcome you to a space that is available to sip your coffee, or water, and get to know the other young adults of the church. We would like to create a space to hold casual conversations with friends and a place to share the highs and the lows from your week. This group will not be following along with the weekly Bible Study, and there is zero commitment involved. This group will meet every Sunday at 9:15 AM in room 130. We hope to see you there! Please contact Liz Freburger if you have any questions or would like more information!

Ministries at St. Philip's from Koinonia**Sharon Kittle and Gigi Mueller**



koinonia

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! Our next koinonia gathering is on **January 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. We will be starting the book *Fascinating Bible Studies on Every Parable*. A second group, that meets with the Mueller's, that Koinonia group will meet on **Sunday, January 7 at 6:00 pm** at the Mueller for a post holiday gathering. Please let Gigi Mueller know if you have any questions and if you are coming. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.



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.

Offering Envelopes



YOUR 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE! If you are joining us for Worship, please check the table in the Narthex for your new envelopes! If you are watching Worship online, please simply call the Church Office and arrange for a time to pick them up! Remember, even if you have direct deposit you should pick up your envelopes. There are special offerings.



Every year we provide the members the chance to sign up to dedicate chancel flowers (we used to call them altar flowers when they sat on the altar, but now they are on the shelf in the chancel area) in memory or in honor of loved ones. In order to make it easy for you to sign up for flowers for the 2024 Calendar Year, below is a link to a sign up genius form that will allow you to dedicate flowers for the coming year. **The flowers for 2024 will be \$50.** You will pick the date you want to sign-up for and then it will ask you to type in your dedication and then click the submit button. Like last year, we are asking that you please mail in your payment for the flowers **AT THE TIME YOU FILL OUT THIS DEDICATION SIGNUP.** The only reason we are asking this is that many people forget that they signed up and then forget to send the money in. Altar Guild is trying to avoid coming after the dedication money months afterwards. Thank you so much. To make a dedication, click here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-45509019-flower>

Thank you to everyone who helped make our hosting week a very warm welcome to the families. We provide breakfast, lunch & snack foods and the daily evening meal. Additionally, we provide help with daily needs like laundry soap, toilet paper, and even socks and cough syrup! The evening meal is served in a dining room where all the family members eat together and we serve and socialize with the families. It is so nice when the kids run in and give us a big hug!

Two of the families were blessed enough to get their own housing and we were blessed enough to host two new families into the Family Promise program. Overall, we hosted 20 people.

Our next host week begins January 21, 2024 and a lunch and learn will be in March, 2024.

Again, a very sincere thank you for the support and love provided to the Family Promise families.

Peace
Rebecca and Marty

FAMILY PROMISE

Our Next Host Week: January 21, 2024 to January 27, 2024



Advent - Waiting

Why aren't we singing Christmas songs all day on Christmas Eve? Why do we have to wait until the evening services before we sing Christmas songs? After all, there is a worship service on the morning of Christmas Eve.

There actually is a good reason why we don't sing Christmas songs that morning. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. That Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Advent. We don't want to cut short the season of Advent because it is just as important as any other season in the church year.

Advent is a time of waiting, preparation and anticipation. It's a time when we remember how long the Israelites waited for the coming of the Messiah. We also anticipate when Christ will come again in glory.

Waiting is never easy to do but it is an important part of life. Most of us are impatient, wanting to rush to the finish line. The commercialism that has taken hold of Christmas doesn't help, but let's try to enjoy this Advent season.

Waiting can be a nice time if we use it as a time to focus. Think about Thanksgiving Day. Hours are spent preparing the food, as the house fills with wonderful smells. As we spend hours smelling turkey, pumpkin pie and other things roasting in the oven, the anticipation becomes almost overwhelming (as evidenced by the growling stomachs). The meal, when we finally get to it, is nice but the waiting can be just as good, if not better.

Another time of waiting, preparation and anticipation is when a woman is pregnant. The months of waiting allow plenty of time for preparing a room and buying clothes and other necessary supplies. The anticipation grows as names are chosen. It is a great time of knowing the child is here, but not quite.

Enjoy the Advent season and its songs of waiting and anticipation.

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. ELW 254*

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

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

Shepherd's Needed! One of our shepherds is stepping down and our committee needs a new shepherd. It's not a huge commitment. We meet **four times a year on the first Monday** of February, May, August and November at 1 p.m. Attendance isn't mandatory. Each Shepherd keeps in contact with their group of congregants and lets us know if they need anything. If interested, please contact Sally Krapf.

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.

Ministries at St. Philip's - Finance Secretary**Mike Berkheimer**

Commitment Sunday was Sunday, October 15th. Our annual stewardship appeal is underway. Stewardship is not about what the church needs to receive, but rather, what we, as people of faith, entrust to God and God's Church in proclaiming the Gospel in the world. Commitment cards and time and talent forms for our members were mailed out in early October. If you have not already turned yours in, please place it in the offering plate or return to the church office in the coming days.



Grief Group - 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 **December 14th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in the Fellowship Hall here at church. If you are interested in being a part or learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

Ministries at St. Philip's

Ellen Lenker and Sharon Holeman

Pinners and Knotters, 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 Pinners and Knotters will be meeting on **Wednesday, December 20th at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to seeing you!!!

Ministries outside of St. Philip's -

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 **December 12th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

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, December 13, 2023 and December 27, 2023

WINTER COATS FOR GROCERY CLUB

Do you have a winter coat that you don’t wear anymore, or that your kids have outgrown? We are asking for men’s, women’s and children’s gently used coats along with hats and gloves. PLEASE make sure coats are in good shape – zippers work, no missing buttons, and no stains! Coats, hats and gloves can be left in the grey collection bin in the Narthex. Thank you for helping our Grocery Club families!





***Thank you to everyone who donated
food to Grocery Club and Hilltop
Thanksgiving meals!
Now 90 families will have a wonderful
meal thanks to all of you!
Special thank you to the Grocery Club
volunteers who helped pack the meals
and gave them out to 60 families!***

December is almost here already!? Seems like summer was here yesterday. As the Christmas events and preparations fill our minds and schedules, we try to keep from being consumed by our lives and not forget about others. Throughout this year there have been so many opportunities to serve others and participate in events that help us to grow as loving, caring Christians here at St. Philips. I know that I have grown and understand other viewpoints much better through the many events and by serving others!

Racial Justice is a topic that is sometimes uncomfortable for a lot of people, me included. As I get more educated by being involved in helping others, listening to others and discussing issues that I've paid little attention to, I have gained a better understanding and empathy for those in this country and the world that struggle with injustice.

As Christmas approaches let us not forget to pray, learn and work to serve others to make this world a little better each day, week, and year. God gave us the greatest gift on Christmas Day. Let us try to pay it forward a little bit each day!

Merry Christmas and a joyful season to all!





The Outreach team is thankful for the great generosity shown by St Philip's members as we serve those in need in our community. At the beginning of November, St Philip's once again provided meals and other necessities to families in the Family Promise program. You donated all the food and household items requested for the week! Marty Budd and Rebecca Bardenhagen coordinate this effort and would love to have even more volunteers help out in 2024.

You also responded to the call for food to fill NINETY Thanksgiving baskets for families from the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center in Wilmington and the Grocery Club families here at St Philip's. This is the largest number of Thanksgiving baskets ever donated by our church. The food is so appreciated by the families who receive it, especially in this time of high food costs. Thanks to Elizabeth Stirk and Nancy Zinnato for organizing the food donations and delivery.

Look for the signup poster in the Narthex for **Christmas presents for children at Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center** in Wilmington. Bring wrapped presented to church by Sunday December 17th for delivery to Hilltop that day. Contact: Elizabeth Stirk.



Come out for a fun afternoon of
CAROLING to homebound members
Followed by pizza, hot chocolate, and
cookies in the Fellowship Hall
Jingle bells and Santa hats encouraged!

Sunday, December 17th
from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sign up on the Poster in Narthex!

Happy Holidays!!

With Thanksgiving just past, preparations underway for Christmas, and the new year on the horizon, the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center continues to multitask by taking a deep dive into improving the educational opportunities for our students.



According to the Center's Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, two new reading programs were chosen this fall. "We decided to have Kindergarten through First Grade do our Book Nook Program and Third Grade through Sixth Grade do the Renaissance Learning Program." Teresa says the effort began with an assessment of student reading skills. "The test for the Renaissance program required each child to read a story and then take a test on what they read. The test for Book Nook required reading and then guiding sessions on reading."

Teresa points out that this learning effort is not limited to reading. "There is also a Math Component of Renaissance Learning called Freckle. All the children will be using Freckle as their Math Program."

In addition to the afore-mentioned reading and math evaluations, Teresa says the Center is also working with the schools. "We...made contact by email with all the principals of the schools our children attend to arrange site visits to each school. The visits (began) in November and continue until we have visited every school."



The story doesn't end there. According to Teresa, a new school aged communications tool called "Class Dojo" has also been adopted at Hilltop. "Class Dojo allows for direct staff to parent and group communication with families. There are games young people can play on the Dojo Island online platform. The app also allows staff to communicate with each other... individually and as a team. Class Dojo even allows our staff to provide behavior data that can be seen by parents."

Finally, our annual Christmas Gift charts are available for your congregation. Please bring your wrapped and labeled new gifts to Hilltop on Sunday, December 17. Contact the Center if you have any questions.

Merry Christmas!!

Eric F. Mease

Member, Board of Directors

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

Christmas Greetings and Blessings from Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD!

God is good, and 2023 has been a full and beautiful year for LCM!

We're blessed with an active, creative group of students seeking to know Jesus and to serve their neighbors. Whether at Tuesday evening worship or on an ice cream run, participating in Bible study or enjoying beach retreats, our LCM students are a joy-bringing, gifted community of young adults.

Our Directing Committee members and staff work together well and joyfully, as we oversee this student ministry together. We've held two successful fundraisers in 2023, one online and one in person, in addition to sharing regular meetings and property workdays.

Wonderful people from local parishes, as well as generous parents and alumni, have joined us for Tuesday dinners, sharing tasty home-cooked treats. We're especially grateful to Hope Lutheran for hosting our fall fundraiser, as well to those congregations who have made special financial gifts to LCM and those who have invited our students to visit and speak.

Thank you for your support and for your prayers! It's because of our wider network of support—financial, practical, and spiritual—that LCM can continue to provide a nurturing, Christ-centered place for students to grow in faith, leadership, service, outreach, and discipleship.

May your Advent and Christmas seasons shine brightly with the light of Christ our Lord!

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service †
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD
302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org*



Warm thanks and Christmas blessings from our LCM team!

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, Charles & 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, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Leo Velez, Mark & Yvonne Cilento, Charlie Boss, Carol Goodman, Maria Start, Dave Frampton, Danny Mason, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Diane Murray, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Gigi Mueller, Family of Marie Thomas

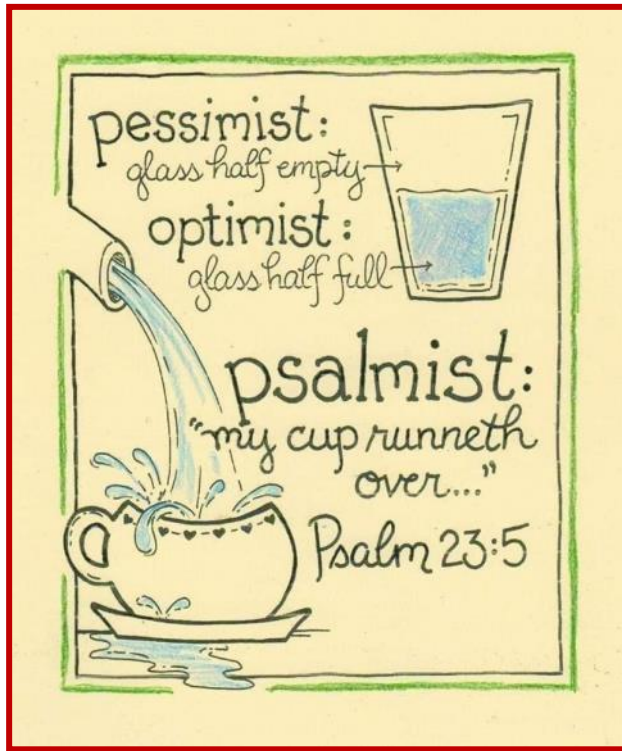
We Pray for our Loved Ones: *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Ruth DiDonato & Family of Earl & Irene Meyer**, family of Linda Burkum; **Emily Ruckle & Tina Davis**, family 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; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simpers; **Mary Jane Myers**, mother of Mark Myers; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son of Yvonne Cilento; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott & Lee & **Patricia Craig**, friends of The Budds; **Greg Moore**, friend, **David Martin**, **Diane Balinski**, **Debra Jennings**, & **Barney Jennings**, family of Russ Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Jermaine & Joslyn Sanders**, friends of Nancy Zinnato; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family 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; **Lew & Donna Longhenry**, parents & **Brad Oliver**, brother-in-law of Bryan Longhenry; **Steve Gibson**, friend of Jean Kunkle; **The Family of Robert Schuh**, family of Diana Longhenry; **Martin Page & Family**, friends of Mike Rosen; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **B J Lawson**, daughter of Jean Kunkle; **Pastor Tom Carlson & Ken Worme**, friends of Bob & 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**, son, **Jackson Molnar**, grandson, & **Shana Molnar**, daughter-in-law of Beth Molnar; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman; **Donna Reeves**, sister of Pam Sheffer; **Doris S., Kathleen K. and Chris Lariola**, friends of Anne Hamilton; **Frank Kulick**, brother of Ruth Bowles; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Marilynn Kelley**, Mother of Dawn Downes; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak, **Dave and Sharon Potter**, Friends of Lila Hall



Linda Burkum	12/1	Charles Bowles	12/21
William Kennedy	12/2	Kenna Baldwin	12/21
Paul Shovestul	12/2	Judy Fawzi	12/22
Kathy Salvatelli	12/3	Beth Cavalier	12/23
Pastor Amy Wright	12/7	Virginia Frattarola	12/24
Vivienne Cookson	12/7	Eric Bardenhagen	12/25
Thomas Krapf	12/8	Annie Cavalier	12/25
Lila Hall	12/12	Jeremy Zinnato	12/26
Danielle Mignogna	12/12	Natalie Cutler	12/26
Donna Hokanson	12/14	Ginny Lion	12/29
Gunnar Imgarten	12/19	Marty Budd	12/30
Blake Anderson	12/19	Meghan Newcomer	12/31

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
Rev. Amy Wright, Associate Pastor
Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO 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.....
Christian Education.....
Enviro. Stewardship.....
Fellowship.....
Finance/Audit.....
Grocery Club.....
Outreach.....
Prayer Ministry.....
Property.....
.....
Racial Justice Task Force
Worship and Music.....

Carol Oesterbo
Sharon Kittle
David Porter
Pam Sheffer
Coleman Bye
Nancy Zinnato
Susan Mack
Contact Church Office
Dave Frampton
Mark Myers
Phil Duncan
Louise James

St. Philip’s Lutheran Church

5320 Limestone Road

Wilmington, DE 19808

Phone: (302) 239-2100

Website: www.stphilips.us

Address Service Requested

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Small Groups, Christian Ed for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary

** Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall Between Services