

# The Guidepost



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



## February 2024



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

## Water is Life—So How Can We Help?

As you are reading this, we are just about to have or will recently have held our Annual Congregational Meeting. At that time you will hear about some of the exciting things that we are hoping to do with our facility: an expanded parking lot and finishing the basement. But you are also going to hear (or you will have heard) about a group called Water is Life, Kenya.

Water is Life, Kenya is a local organization right here in Wilmington whose mission is to help the people in Kenya have clean water supply for their children and their villages. Clean water as it turns out is vital not just for health of their bodies, but for the health of the entire community. When clean water comes, so much changes for those whose lives were spent trying to find a source of drinkable water. Water is Life, Kenya helps find locations in villages where clean water wells can be drilled, helps drill those wells, and also puts in the infrastructure to help store water and keep the well running well into the future. But it goes so much further than that. Because once a village has water, the women who spent time walking miles and miles, hours upon hours, to find water can use their time to start businesses and make money for their families. Children, can now be properly bathed and therefore can go to school. Now, we are talking about transforming not just what is consumed, but we are talking about helping support families and communities. People begin to thrive this way. Water is Life Kenya helps with all these aspects of helping people thrive in their villages in Kenya.

Back in the Fall, we welcomed the founder of WILK to our OWLS group—Joyce Tannian is the director of this group and invited us to pray about how St. Philip's might be able to help people in Kenya have clean water and better their lives. And we are going to respond. During 2024 and 2025, we are going to partner with WILK to help them provide a village with new life. I am reminded of Jesus going into one of the villages in Samaria (a foreign country) and offering a woman at a well "living water" (John 4). Well, this is the gift we hope to give to a community in Kenya this year.

We hope you will help become a part of this wonderful project to bless the people of the world with the grace that we have been offered in Jesus Christ . . . To be satisfied in both body and spirit. And maybe you might even join us in Kenya in dedicating this well when it is finished. Ask me more about this exciting project.

Greetings St. Philip's!

I think I have said this half a billion times since I started working here in November and it still stands true: this is such a great church! This is a church that is booming! And I love it! There's so many things going on and there's something for any age that will fill your cup. I am grateful to be here.

I just want to draw your attention to a number of things that are coming up that you won't want to miss:

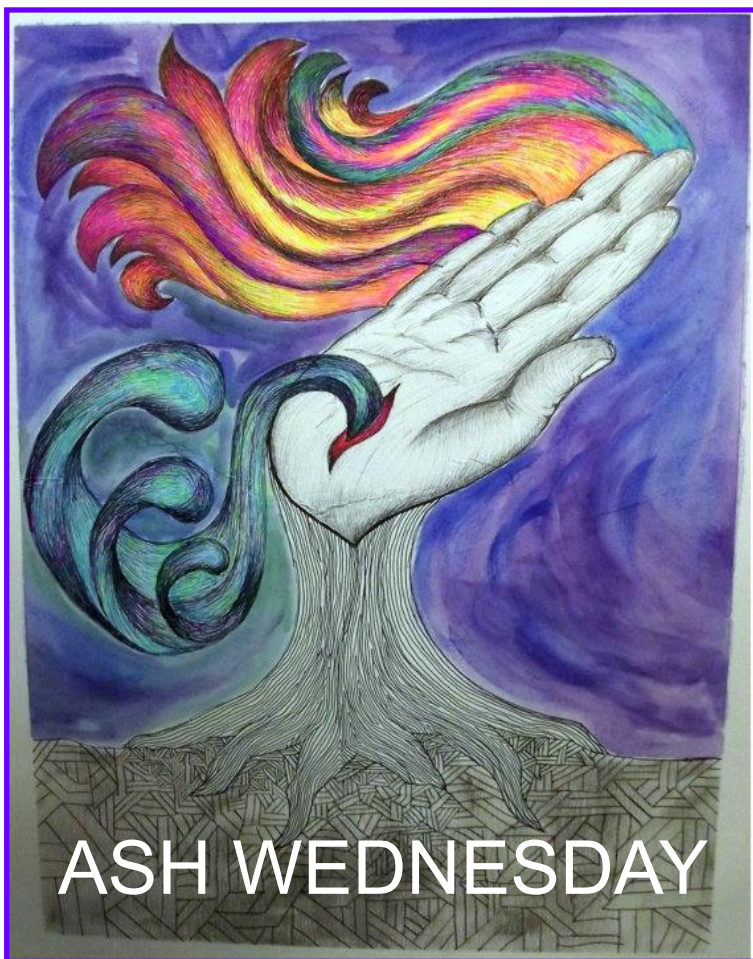
•**The Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner** - As I have heard, this is the BIGGEST fundraiser, and for good reason! All the proceeds go to our Youth Group to cut the cost for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. On **Saturday, March 2nd** from 5-8pm: there's bingo, there's top-notch prizes, there's plenty of laughs, there's silent auctions, there's great food, and fantastic fellowship! *What more could you ask for?* Make sure and get your tickets early! You won't want to miss out!

•**Pub Theology** - If there was ever a congregation that I would be especially excited to lead Pub Theology for, it would be St. Philip's! There's no need to prep, or study-up, or anything - just come and be a part of the conversation! Grab a beer, a glass of wine, or a nice glass of water and join us as we talk about things that matter to us. The format is simple: *beer, conversation, and God*. Come and bring your questions and thoughts, bring a friend, pull up a chair, and join me!

•**Confirmation** - Confirmation classes start up soon (March 24th) and I am so beyond excited to be leading it! Confirmation is all about baptized people learning the confession, scriptures, life and mission of the Christian Church. It is the Affirmation of your Baptism. This is a special and holy time for our young people in studying and embracing their faith and getting to know the God that loves them. It was when I felt the Call to be a Pastor and I look forward to helping our young people see God a little bit clearer in their lives. :)

What better way to step into the season of Lent than to surround yourself in fellowship and in study with one another.

This is such a great church! You are loved. You are enough.



**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**Potluck Supper at 6:30 p.m.  
(Bring a dish to share)**

**7:15 p.m. Worship Service with  
Distribution of Ashes**



## **Wednesday Evenings at St. Philip's:**

*Each of the following Wednesday Evenings **here at St. Philip's**, we'll have Soup and Bread at 6:30 p.m.  
followed by a Lenten Vespers Service*

**February 21 \* February 28 \* March 6 \* March 13 \* March 20**

### **Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services & Community Lunches**

*"The Sermon on the Mount"*

#### **Wednesdays at Noon:**

**February 21 \* February 28  
March 6 \* March 13 \* March 20**

**Noon to 1:30 p.m.**

This year hosted by: Limestone Presbyterian Church  
3201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808

It feels like we just had the Christmas holidays, our Annual Congregational Meeting, and now, February is upon us raising up both thoughts of love and of things to do! Do we have a Valentine's Day dinner? Do we need a reservation? Should we eat earlier or later in the day? Did I get cards for my spouse, the kids, and/or the grandkids? How about more presents? Does it need to be red? Questions, questions, and more questions!

And here are some more questions! Is the above what "Love" is all about? Buying things and eating out and sending cards? What about Love in the sense of faith.... our Christian Love?

Is Love just a feeling for us, or is it more than that? Is love for Christians truly a beautiful word which conveys a sense of action?

For me.... Love is an action word. It is the goodness that you and I choose to do on behalf of another. Certainly, this applies to my husband and family, but I think of Love this time of year more broadly!

True love is humble, righteous, forgiving, patient, generous, kind and willing to endure personal loss and suffering. Love is the opposite of self-absorption and selfishness, which are chiefly devoted to one's own personal pleasure, benefits, welfare, and profit.

And I am sure that if you are with me this far in my thoughts, you know exactly what is coming next:

Christ said to us: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another just as I have loved you! For if God so loved us, we also should love one another. That is the Love I think we should be sharing this month and everyone month.

I wish you all Love and wonderful things in your lives.

## The Baptism of Jesus

In New Testament scripture Matthew 3: 13-17. John the Baptist Prepares the Way. In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”





**O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** - Our presenter that day will be Erica Holmes from the Alzheimer's Association. She'll be coming to talk to us about working with those with memory issues. Please bring whatever you would like to eat or drink that day. We look forward to seeing you on the 13th!

## From the Finance Committee

Teri Suddard

1/15/2024 01:13p		St. Philip's Lutheran Church			
		<b>Treasurer's Report by Major Group</b>			
		December of Fiscal Year 2023			
		Responsibility: All			
		<u>Fund: 01 - General</u>			
		December	Year-to-date	Year-to-date	Percent of
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Group 00		90,558.67	546,162.85	473,002.00	115.47%
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>90,558.67</b>	<b>546,162.85</b>	<b>473,002.00</b>	<b>115.47%</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
Administration		1,550.79	34,487.76	35,300.00	97.70%
Committees		18,231.19	152,442.43	176,780.00	86.23%
Pastor		10,498.68	126,925.40	126,694.00	100.18%
Staff		18,717.89	129,021.54	195,612.00	65.96%
Utilities		1,376.71	20,145.65	18,200.00	110.69%
Benevolence		1,458.33	17,499.96	17,500.00	100.00%
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>51,833.59</b>	<b>480,522.74</b>	<b>570,086.00</b>	<b>84.29%</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>		<b>38,725.08</b>	<b>65,640.11</b>	<b>-97,084.00</b>	



Are you having the post-holiday blues? Are you dealing with the loss of a loved one? Or an illness of some kind? Let one of our pastors know...St Philip's has ten trained Stephen Ministers to help you through those difficult times. They are here to listen and offer support...Just ask.

# PUB THEOLOGY

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 is every 3rd Thursday, at Chuck Lager. ALL are welcome at any time!

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!

The upcoming dates are as follows: February 15, March 21<sup>st</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, and May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will take a break for the summer and then come back in the fall. Cheers!

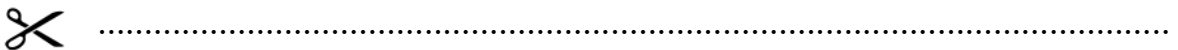
# FIRST COMMUNION



It may only be January, but Easter is coming! At this time of year we invite all children who are ready to receive Holy Communion to join this year's First Communion Class, in preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. These are typically children in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> grades and above.

The three week course will be taught by Pastor Patrick and requires the participation of both students and one or both parents. The three course sessions will be held February 25th, March 3rd and 17th at 12:00 pm. Each session is 1 1/2 hours.

All interested families should fill out the form below, detach it, and return it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate. We look forward to sharing in this sacramental journey with you and your child. Please speak with Pastor Patrick if there are any questions.




## First Communion Registration Form

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Family Members attending the Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents E-mail and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_






# THE RITE OF Confirmation

TEACHING THE FAITH WITH PR. AMY

SIGN UP NOW!





SPRING 2024-  
SPRING 2025

GRADES 7+



# Together in Faith

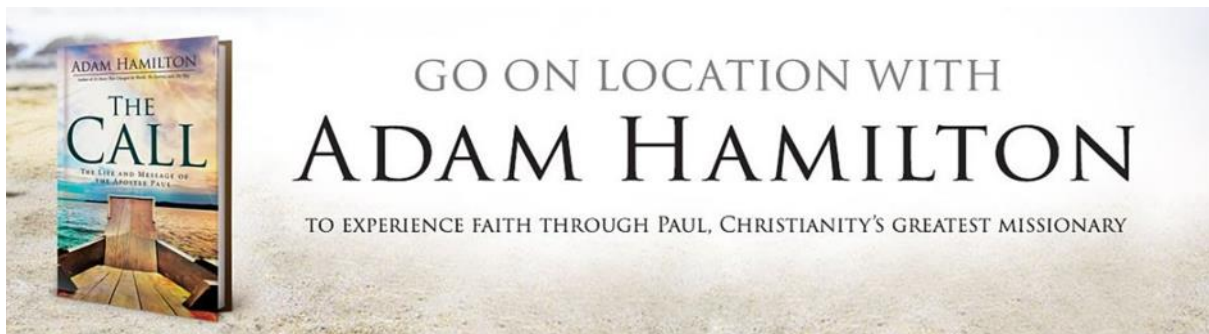
**A Community Learning  
Experience for all Ages**

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**

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

- Adults and Youth will share and fellowship
- Kid's Club will meet as usual.
- Topic to come.

**\*The Nursery Will Be Open!**



## **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 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 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



## **St. Philip's Congregational Pasta Dinner and Bingo Night Saturday, March 2, 2024**

Join us **March 2nd** at **5:00 p.m.** for a homemade pasta dinner followed by the most highly competitive night of bingo you've ever seen. The most exciting prizes donated by local merchants will be awarded to winners.

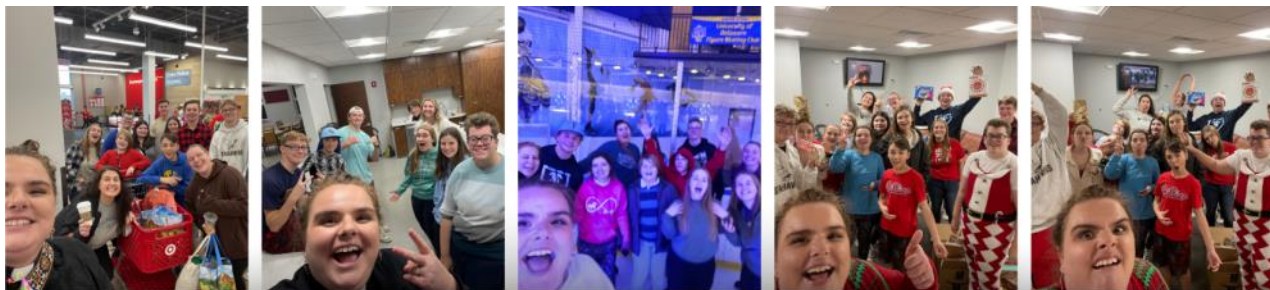
Tickets will go on sale February 4th!  
Children \$5.00/Adults \$7/Family \$20

Mark your calendars!

**All proceeds go to our Youth Group for the  
National Youth Gathering this summer!**







## ST. PHILIP'S YOUTH GROUP

*Making disciples. Praising God. Serving the Community*



### Welcoming the Otto Tunes with our own Ryan Myers from Syracuse University

Otto Tunes is Syracuse University's premier orange pants-wearing a cappella group with St. Philip's very own Ryan Myers!! They burst on to the scene in 2011 and have been singing ever since. Otto Tunes combines original arrangements with plenty of energy! We enjoyed every minute of their concert! Hope to see you again soon!







Here at St. Philip's we have one *amazing* Youth Group! A Youth Group full of energy, kindness, inclusivity, humor and is centered on serving and loving God and our neighbors. It is a joy to learn with and from them! All are welcome to join us!

There's a bunch of things happening and coming up so mark your calendars!! You won't want to miss a thing!

- 2/4 - Valentine's Day Service Project in Fellowship Hall (12-3pm)
- 2/9-2/11 - Synod High School Youth Gathering in West Virginia
- 2/18 - Dinner & Game Night @ church (6-8pm)
- 2/25 - No Youth Group
- 3/2 - **\*\*Spaghetti Dinner + Bingo Night (5-8pm)\*\*** - This is the **BIGGEST** fundraiser we have all year and we cannot wait! All proceeds go to our Youth Group for the National Youth Gathering this summer! See Youth Group emails for further information about getting prizes (2 per family), signing up for ticket selling shifts & more. Let's get pumped!!
- 3/10 - Spring Cleaning Service Project (12-3pm)
- 3/17 - No Youth Group
- 3/24 - Palm Sunday Service Event (Easter Egg Hunt) from 11:30-2pm
- 3/31 - Easter Sunday - Easter Breakfast (7-11am)

**The Rite of Confirmation** is starting up SOON! For all interested in being Confirmed please let Pastor Amy know. Confirmation classes will go from Spring 2024-Spring 2025 with the Confirmation date of **Pentecost Sunday**: Sunday, June 8, 2025. The schedule will be as follows for the remaining program year:

- Sunday: **March 24** (2:30-4pm), **April 14** (2:30-4pm), **April 21** (3:30-5pm), **April 28** (12:30-2pm), & **May 19** (2:30-3:30pm). The fall and spring schedule will be released this summer.
- You can sign up using the QR code:



You are loved. You are enough.

**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.

The **Small Group Bible study** has completed the fall session. It will return on March 10th with the Holy Spirit as the topic. **Rise and Shine, Breakfast Club, Kid's Club, Youth Group and Mission Kids** continue through the winter months.

The **Adult Winter Video Series** led by Pastor Patrick continues through February at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The title of the series is "The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul." It is a large group setting; no registration needed....just drop in when you can. (See separate pages for more information)

On February 4 **Mission Kids** will help the **Youth Group** make Valentines to be delivered to homebound St. Philip's members.

Members of the **Youth Group** will attend the HS Synod Gathering in West Virginia from February 9-11.

Upcoming events: **Together in Faith Breakfast** (March 3) and the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** (March 24).

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.



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**From Ministries at St. Philip's - Mission Kids**

**Anna Grieder and Liz Freburger**

We have planned a fun-filled 2024 for the Mission Kids! After a very busy end to 2023, the Mission Kids took a brief break in January and will be back to work in February. Join us February 4th @ 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall as we pair up with the Youth Group to create Valentines for our shut-ins. Bring your own lunch and all crafting supplies will be provided.

Other upcoming events planned throughout the spring include:

**March 24th- Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**April 14th- Mission Kids get messy with a group craft project**

**May 11th- Mission Moms night out!**

**Keep an eye on your email for details about all of our upcoming events!**



**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!

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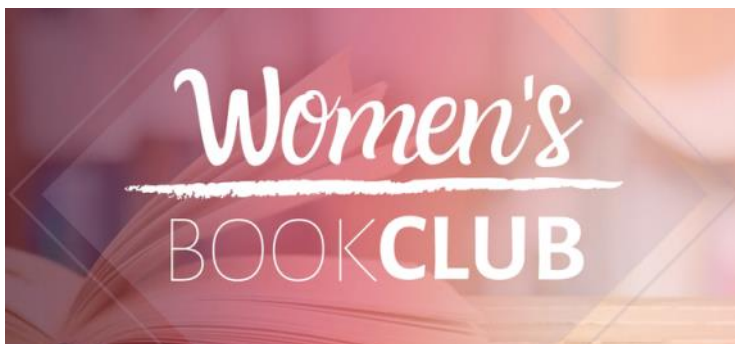
**Ministries at St. Philip's from Koinonia****Sharon Kittle and Gigi Mueller**

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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 **February 11th 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, February 18th at 6:30 pm** at the Mueller. Christian Nationalism will be the topic. Please let Gigi Mueller know if you have any questions and if you are coming. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.



The Women's Daytime Book Club will meet again on Tuesday, February 20th, 12:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing, THE MAGDALEN GIRLS. Looking ahead, the book for March 19th will be, LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY, (doesn't March sound good?!)

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

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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:

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

March - *The Mountain Sings* by Que Mai Phan Nguyen

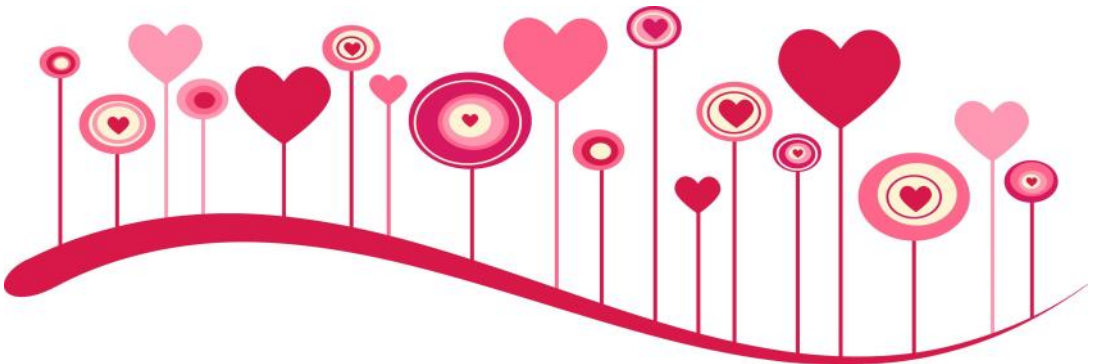
April - *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb (NCC Reads book)



Ladies of St. Philip's, meet and mingle with other women on Saturday, February 10th at our 1st annual GALentines Brunch. This event is hosted by our Women's Ministry Team and celebrates our common bond, our friendships, our work at St. Philips...and WAFFLES. We'll gather at 9:30 AM at Gigi Mueller's house (235 Newark Road. Landenberg, PA 19350) for a potluck brunch followed by conversation, fellowship, crazy compliments, and planning for the upcoming year of Women's Ministry. The GALentines Brunch will be a lot of fun and a GREAT way to meet more women here at St. Philips! Sign-up to join us for brunch and to let us know what you'll bring on the:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4FAAAD29A64-47011148-stphilips#/>

If you have questions, reach out to Gigi Mueller or DawnDownes.





February 14th, Valentine's Day, is such a great time to think about love. We share our deep feelings with our loved ones, giving gifts to show how much someone means to us. Hugs and kisses are everywhere that day. We remember our loved ones who have passed away and remember their love, while we wish we could give them one more hug. Valentine's Day is such a nice day to think about how much we are loved by so many people.

This year, Valentine's Day has a special meaning of love because it shares February 14th with Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent, in which we remember Jesus' journey of love toward the cross, which culminates in the greatest sacrifice of love - Jesus' death and resurrection! There has never been a love as pure and strong as the love our Lord has for all of us.

It's a shame that in English we only have one word for love. In Greek, there are several words for love, each one meaning a different type of love. Storge is the type of love that you find within a family, such as the love that a parent has for his or her child. Eros is romantic, sexual love. Phileo is reciprocal love between friends. Then there is agape love, which is the highest form of love. Agape love is unconditional, sacrificial and totally centered on the recipient. Agape love is best described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

God offers this agape love to everyone. To be loved with such powerful, unconditional love, which we don't deserve, is overwhelming. There are no words to describe how thankful this agape love makes us feel. We want to return this agape love to God. We love God because he first loved us. God wants us to share this agape love with everyone around us, also. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, his response was all about love. In Matthew 22:37-39, we read:

*<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.*

This Valentine's Day and throughout Lent, let's try to think of new and different ways to share God's agape love with the world. Many people **give up** something for Lent, which is fine; but, why don't we try to **give** agape love each day. And, let's not stop after Lent. God never stops giving us his agape love and he doesn't want us to stop either.

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.

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**Ministries at St. Philip's - Care Kits****David & Donna Porter**

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**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.

**Help Us Restock the Care Kits for the Homeless** – As you may know, we provide care kits for our members to keep in their cars or wherever to help people in need when we come across them in our daily life. Our supply of care kits are running low and we need help restocking our care kit bags. It's winter, so socks, hats, gloves, band-aids, etc. are needed. There is a bin in the narthex into which you can place all the items you donate. Thank you so much for your care and generosity. A sign up for the things we need can be found here:

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-47073305-homeless>**

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

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**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 **February 8th 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.

**Pinner 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 Pinner and Knotters will be meeting on **Wednesday, February 21st at noon** in the Fellowship Hall.

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### **Ministries outside of St. Philip's - Alzheimer's/Dementia Group**

**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 **February 13th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

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**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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**Every year we provide the members the chance** to signup 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 signup for flowers for the 2024 Calendar Year, below is a link to a signup 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>**

**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, February 14, 2024 and February 28, 2024**



**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!

Family Promise

St. Philips Host Week: April 7-13

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our January host week a success! Family Promise, as well as the families they serve, are so appreciative of the food, supplies, and time given to them. Our next host week will be April 7-13 and then again on May 12-18.

Before COVID, the families (usually 3 or 4 families) were housed in different churches throughout New Castle County. During their stays, the hosting churches provided breakfast, lunch, and evening meals. During the three years of the pandemic, the host's duty was to provide the evening meal. Beginning in 2023, Family Promise families now live at the Jesus House off of Milltown Road. That change has resulted in how and what the host churches provide food. The families live in a cottage that has a kitchen and a laundry shared by all, and separate quarters for each family. To make the families comfortable, host churches now provide food for breakfast and lunch, staples such as laundry detergent, etc., and an evening meal. As the needs have changed, so is our way of asking for help.

There will be sign-up posters in the Narthex with menus in mid-March. Also at that time, we will email out a Sign-Up Genius link for perishables items which will be collected before April 7.

A huge thank you in advance for your continued support. Feel free to contact Rebecca Bardenhagen or Marty Budd with any questions.

Blessing to all.

**FAMILY PROMISE**

**Our Next Host Week: April 7, 2024 to April 13, 2024**

## BIBLICAL VIEWS ON DIVERSITY AND DISCRIMINATION

In the past few years, I have read a dozen books featuring the character or the decline of the Christian Church in America. If, by the grace of God, in the Name of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be able to reverse the decline and be in the best position to witness to our faith, we **MUST** know the Scriptures. As the traditional prayer invites: we are to “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest” the Word of God.

My readings suggest that there are assumptions about what the Bible says that are patently inaccurate. Misinterpretations have replaced truths and become common place.

A decade ago, studies showed that only 6% (SIX PERCENT) of Lutheran Christians were involved in any formal group Bible study. Despite notions to the contrary, other Christians are equally negligent.

There are only a few other issues that pervade our existence negatively than racial ones around the world, especially in America. It can be said that how this matter is handled or mishandled, influences how other pressing issues of diversity and tensions are experienced.

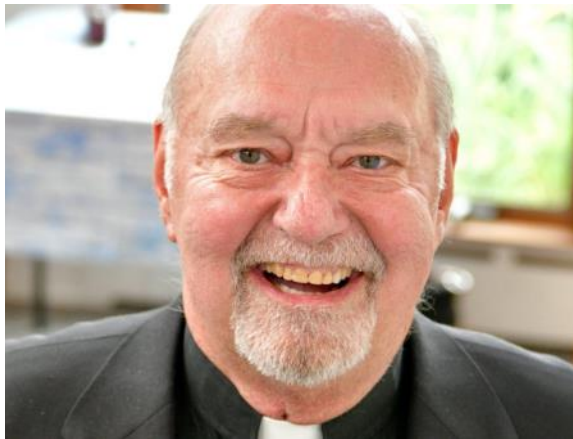
We cannot definitively settle this or any other matter. We can, however, do a “fly over” and land on some significant passages that can increase our knowledge, assist us in avoiding historic errors, and motivate us to dig deeper into our faith, which forgives and frees and does not belittle and bind.

Our “Lunch and Learn” is after the late service on February 11. Do come and spiritually grow with us.

~~MUNCH~~ LUNCH & LEARN  
with  
PASTOR DAVE MUELLER  
Sunday, February 11, 11:45,  
in the Fellowship Hall

"Biblical views of  
Diversity and Discrimination"  
sponsored by  
the Racial Justice Task Force

Sign up below to hear Pr Dave's  
insights from biblical texts!







**Next Outreach team meeting,  
Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

Contact Susan Mack if you are interested in outreach activities at St Philip's. We need your ideas!! Come to our next meeting at church on 2/6/24.

**Mark your calendars!!  
Lunch and Learn with Family Promise  
Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>  
11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Join us for a light lunch and presentation by the Director of Family Promise after the 10:30 service. Learn about the changes at Family Promise as this organization develops and grows to serve homeless families in Delaware. Find out how you can help this longtime ministry of St. Philip's. Look for the signup in the narthex later in February.



## Warm Greetings from LCM at UD!

Spring-term classes have resumed, and the students are back at Lutheran Campus Ministry. It's a joy to reconvene after UD's long winter break and to hear stories of family times, trips, and even international travel. This year one member was blessed to spend his winter session studying in Munich, Germany.

We're excited for 2024! Our spring plans include weekly Tuesday dinners and worship gatherings, as well as coffee and conversation outings, Bible study on the Gospel of Luke, monthly volunteering with FISH (*Fellowship in Serving the Hungry*), ice skating, a special Easter dinner, hiking, and an overnight spring retreat. If you'd like to visit us on a Tuesday evening at our lovely chapel at 247 Haines Street, please do. We love to talk with members of local congregations and with other LCM supporters. If you're interested in teaming up with friends to bring a home-cooked meal for students, please call our office or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. Our students are very grateful for the dinners!

We especially invite your prayers for our four active seniors, Elizabeth, Gabby, Julie, and Lucca, as they finish their undergraduate studies at UD this spring, await word from graduate schools, and seek God's guidance for life and work beyond college. Please pray for the peace of Christ to sustain them, as well as for Jesus' accompaniment at each step of the journey.

Thank you for your support and for your prayers! ❤️

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



*Please come join us for a Tuesday dinner this semester! ☺️*

## Starting the New Year with Thanksgiving!



Since this is the first newsletter article from the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center of 2024, we begin with a thank you to members of the Lutheran churches and their friends and families, the Toys for Tots organization, and the City of Wilmington. Center Executive Director, [Michelle Williams](#) says your Christmas gift donations made “the children and families smile again this year for the holidays. As always, the children were anxious to get their gifts. Families were happy that the children were happy, and staff was happy that both the children and the families were happy! It was a great time for all.”

Speaking of the holidays and Hilltop staff, Michelle also reports that the year ended with a big thank you to staff. “The annual staff holiday party was held on December 21<sup>st</sup> at Timothy’s on the Riverfront. The band: Best Kept Soul and DJ Amaze kept us entertained all night. Staff laughed and joked all night and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.”



Meanwhile, Hilltop’s Youth Services Director, Teresa Allen, is making science fun. “[we](#) made slime with baking soda, shampoo, and food coloring. Each student was able to watch chemical reactions and density of slime.” Teresa says the children took a stab at physics too. “Youth used Jenga blocks to make towers. Scholars measured to see who made the tallest and most stable tower.” Even I may have passed science class had it been this much fun!

Finally, Teresa says reading skills were not left out of the learning fun. “We have concentrated our efforts on helping to improve the reading level of the children in our program. The children spend 3 days working on reading and literacy and 1 day on math. We use several different learning programs to help improve their learning skills. We received report cards from most of our children who did quite well this marking period.”



In other Center news, over the years, the Hilltop Center has championed programs to encourage fathers of Hilltop students to participate in ongoing programs. During January, Center Deputy Director, [Brandon Furrowh](#) says funding was sought to assist this effort. “Our focus will be to connect fathers to supportive resources, employment opportunities, and mentorship/ bonding opportunities that promote healthy parenting and co-parenting skill-building and strategies.” We will, of course, provide updates on this funding application.

*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, Judi Parsons, John & Barb Williams, Charles & Ruth Bowles, Lois Hardy, John Newcomer, Sr., Carol Ruckle, Lamont & Sharon Smith, Louise James, Ethel Reichley, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sam Cory, Richard Pierce, Phyllis Bolgiano, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Leo Velez, Charlie Boss, Carol Goodman, Maria Start, Dave Frampton, Danny Mason, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Diane Murray, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Veronica Stevens, Tony Calvarese, Elizabeth Stirk, Fred Pratola, The Family of Mark Cilento, The Family of Russ 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):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Bud & 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 Gible & 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; **Mark and Joe Cilento, Jr.**, sons 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; **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; **Maria Perdikis**, friend of Donna & Monika Daugherty



Matthew Mignogna	2/1	Katie Morrison	2/21
Michael Newcomer	2/2	Vince Suddard	2/21
Keira Culley	2/3	Blagovesta (Eva) Dimitrova	2/22
Danny Mason	2/3	Trudy Gilgenast	2/23
Sia Joy Nkurlu	2/3	David Porter	2/23
Matthew Brenneman	2/5	Linda Sayther	2/23
Matthew Cory	2/7	Rebekah Barron	2/25
Samantha Obara	2/8	Wes Patterson	2/26
Chris Hewlett	2/10	Lesma Jones	2/28
Andy Brenneman	2/11	Ethel Reichley	2/28
Sharon Holeman	2/20	Diana Schneider	2/28
Myrna Symonds	2/20	Alan Start	2/28

May God Bless You on Your Special Day!



Sunday, March 3, 2024



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  
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](http://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