

The Guidepost



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



November 2024



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

Work on the Basement Has Begun!!!

How exciting!!! Work has commenced on the basement. Pictures will continue to be loaded on the website, but the three pictures below feature (From top clockwise to bottom): 1) the exit hallway from the worship and music/altar guild storage room; 2) The main floor closet being torn out for the elevator; and 3) The header to support the classroom divider. Keep checking on line for more pictures as the build continues.





From the Associate Pastor - Pastor Amy

Grace and peace to you always.

The month of November always makes me think of the Sarah Addison Allen quote: "It looked like the world was covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon." I just love that.

The month of November brings with it great thankfulness for all that we have - the gifts that God gives us. Family, friends, health, safety, love, and peace; all gifts from God. This month, if you're like me, makes me reflect on all the people in my life, especially those who are now with God in Heavenly joy.

I think the big reason for that is because the first Sunday of this month, here at church, is All Saints Sunday. It is a Sunday to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us into the heavenly Kingdom of God and the new babies born into this world. You'll notice the paraments change to *white*. The bright white color pops up as a stark contrast to the green paraments we have had for a number of weeks. This bright white reminds us of the resurrection hope found in Jesus Christ. As the trees turn from bright colors and wither away and the days get darker, what a wonderful reminder amidst the darkness of the world: a bright white beacon that declares that there is new life to be found *for you*. That even if we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we will fear no evil because our God is for us and with us. That we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23). That God brings new life every single day.

No matter what this month of November brings, this is a season to give thanks for all that God has given us and continues to give us. *I know I am especially grateful and thankful to be serving as one of the pastors here at St. Philip's as it is this month that marks my one-year anniversary in being called and serving here. I am overflowing in thankfulness for you all and for this church!*

May we see the world "covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon." May we embrace the different spices of this life, may we look to Creation and see its beauty, and may we find rest and peace in the God who holds our days.

Thanks be to God for you from all of us here at St. Philip's!

Fall is here again, and it's the beginning of the busiest season of the year—at least for me. It's a time when we have lots of family gatherings and lots of other social activities. Getting caught up in all the hoopla tends to make us sometimes forget to thank our Lord for our blessings, in good and even in bad times.

I sometimes look for a prayer of acceptance, courage, and wisdom to help me through those frazzled times. So, I wanted to share with you some thoughts on serenity and particularly, the Serenity Prayer.

If you or I look up the word serenity, definitions such as peace, quietness, coolness, composure, and stillness all appear. I suspect that you, like me, are often in search of serenity in your life. So much is going on with work, with family, with the world, and with life in general, that some time for peace and quiet is something we seek; in fact, it's something that we need and cherish. No, it's not a total escape from all that we need to do, but just a respite of calm and quiet. I find that the best time for this respite is the early morning hours, when I can sit calmly and talk with God.

Have you ever heard of the Serenity Prayer? I am sure you know it or have experienced it, though you may not know the background or even what it's called. It is one of the most well-known prayers today. It has been used in sermons and in Sunday School lessons and studies; a shortened version of the prayer is even part of the Alcoholics Anonymous 12-step program. Reinhold Niebuhr is credited with being the author of the prayer. It was composed in the early 1930's, and it was included in a sermon of his in 1943 and later published by him in 1951. Niebuhr was a theologian and a professor at Union Theological Seminary who won the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964.

This is the beginning of the Serenity Prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. So how can the Serenity Prayer work for all of us? The analysis I found and studied notes the following: The acceptance of God's plan and His purpose for our lives will bring the serenity that we all seek. The article noted that there are three Biblical Truths in the Serenity Prayer:

1. While we may not always know God's plan, we can let go of trying to manage people and events and let God work through us.
2. The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to act on God's plan. We can call on that strength to move forward into the full life planned for us.

(The article continues on the Next Page ►)

3. Wisdom is a gift from God which we can pray for and grow in daily to make better decisions.

The Bible tells us, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you”. James 1:5. If you start to feel a bit overwhelmed, at this time of year or any other time, the Serenity Prayer is there for all of us as we navigate the waters of life and need God’s wisdom, help, and assurance. Try it and see.



From Council - Jim Stevens

O God of life and love and peace,
We witness the violence and injustice in your Holy Land
And our hearts break.
Our hearts break for the people of Israel—
For the victims of violent attacks by Hamas
For those who live with fear and insecurity
For those who suffer from the inter-generational trauma of violence.
Our hearts break for Palestinians—
For the victims of violent attacks by the Israeli military
For those being denied water, electricity and medical care
For those who are refugees, long displaced from their homes.
We especially pray—
That weapons of war be laid down
That walls of separation be dismantled
That prisoners be released
That demonizing of “the other” cease
That political leaders seek the good of all people in Palestine and Israel.
O God, whose heart breaks for the world,
May your justice dwell in the land
May your righteousness abide in fruitful fields
May the effect of righteousness be quietness and trust forever
May the effect of justice be peace—enduring peace.
Amen

All Saints' Sunday—Alpha and Omega Saints!!!

November 3, 2024

On November 3, 2024, at our worship services, we will recognize the annual celebration of All Saints' Sunday. In the past, on All Saints' Sunday we have celebrated our connection as members of the Body of Christ to all those saints who have gone before us as witnesses to the same Gospel that we celebrate today. These people, like us, are children of God and have been provided an important gospel witness to us through their faith and life. In that sense, we could call them "Omega" Saints . . . "Omega" being the last letter at the end Greek Alphabet and these "Saints" being at the end of their journey with us on earth. However, we proclaim as people of faith that our God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. So, in addition to recognizing the "Omega" Saints who have completed their journey on earth, we will also be recognizing the "Alpha" Saints - those who have been born this year and are beginning their journey with us as "Saints": those claimed by Christ.

So, on this day, during our worship services, we will be remembering all those saints who have been born this past year and those who have died before us whether during the past year or any time prior. If there is a loved one, friend, or family member that you would like to have named and/or remembered by name on this special day, please clearly write their name and either their date of birth or date of death below. We will read the names of those who were born or who have died this year and will print and remember all names during our prayer time on this very special day.

Detach the bottom of this form and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. If you prefer to submit online, use the following link <https://forms.gle/yFH8PhgGjyfhwaDG6>

Please Recognize the Following Saints:

Alpha Saint Name:

Date of Birth:

Omega Saint Name:

Date of Death:

10/8/2024
11:18a

St. Philip's Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report by Major Group
September of Fiscal Year 2024
Responsibility: All
Fund: 01 - General

	September Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Percent of Budget
Income				
Group 00	51,486.31	411,624.94	372,666.64	110.45 %
Total Income	51,486.31	411,624.94	372,666.64	110.45 %
Expense				
Administration	1,961.63	28,690.64	28,425.06	100.93 %
Committees	16,120.02	145,871.72	142,102.44	102.65 %
Pastor	10,860.70	97,634.86	98,821.44	98.80 %
Staff	16,573.72	153,059.69	153,827.10	99.50 %
Utilities	1,582.86	14,803.92	17,399.97	85.08 %
Benevolence	1,458.33	13,124.97	13,124.97	100.00 %
Total Expense	48,557.26	453,185.80	453,700.98	99.89 %
Income Less Expense	2,929.05	-41,560.86	-81,034.34	

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service

DATE: Wednesday, November 27, 2024
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Limestone Presbyterian Church
3201 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

Happy Thanksgiving To All!!



Thank You

A Big Thank You to All,

To my St. Philip's family and friends, Thank you to everyone for the Prayers, Birthday cards, visits and food. It was such an inspiration and encouragement to feel so loved by this church.

I look forward to seeing each of you when I return this fall. From Ellen Lenker



Daylight Saving Time is ending on Sunday, November 3, 2024. Don't forget to turn your clocks back. We don't want to lose out on an extra hour of sleep that day.

Returning in OCTOBER:



O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, November 12th - This group is geared towards retirees in the congregation that would like to engage in a time of food, fellowship, and light learning. The next meeting will be held **November 12th from 11:30 am to 1 pm** and we'll be welcoming back Anna Grieder who works as a physical therapist across the street from the church. Anna will be giving us more information on movement and caring for ourselves as we get older. Mark your calendar and bring your own lunch and join us!!

Thanksgiving Baskets



Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and with it our annual collection of items to make 90 Thanksgiving baskets for the greater Wilmington community. This year, we will again be making baskets for Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center as well as participants in our St. Philip's Grocery Club programming. Items need to be dropped off at the church by November 17th. This will give us time to pack and distribute the meal baskets by Thanksgiving. Please use the form below to sign up for the items you would like to donate to these wonderful organizations. The turkeys are donated by a generous St. Philips member (Thank you Michael Imgarten) but we need lots of help with everything else. Thank you all so much for your generosity! Please sign up using the link found here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-52288724-2024#/>

Commitment Sunday was Sunday, October 20th. 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.



Mark your calendars now for the

Fall Women's Retreat

Saturday, November 2nd, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Potter and the Clay is our very interesting topic.
Gigi is being joined this year by Pastor Arlene and Crystal Solie.

We are planning some neat things.
Let Gigi know if you have any pottery you would like to bring
and share something about it.

Sign up on the poster in the Narthex or use the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-50836693-womens>

(Deadline for Registration is October 25, 2024)

Women's Ministry

The Daytime Women's Book Club meets once a month. *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah is the discussion for **November 19th**. Our Annual Christmas Social is **December 17th**. Fall meetings will all be held at St. Philip's in **Room #127**.

Fall Women's Retreat—Saturday, November 2nd, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. *The Potter and the Clay* is our very interesting topic. Gigi is being joined this year by Pastor Arlene and Crystal Solie. We are planning some neat things. Let Gigi know if you have any pottery you would like to bring and share something about it. Sign up on the poster in the Narthex or use the link below: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-50836693-womens> **HELP IS NEEDED, PLEASE . . . IF A FEW FOLKS COULD HELP WITH FOOD AND SET UP.** Please let Gigi know if you can help.

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. **Our next meeting is November 8th**. The book for November is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (a classic to read over Halloween. For December we will have a Poetry and Cookie Exchange on **December 13th**. For January the book is Mary Kay Andrews' *Blue Christmas* the meeting is on **January 10th**. 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!



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 this month from 6:30-8:30pm on Thursday, November 21st! It's every 3rd Thursday of the month, and for this month, it will be back at Chuck Lager's!

ALL are welcome at any time! You won't want to miss this!

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!

See you then! Cheers!

2025 Spring Women's Retreat Interest Sign-Up

It's time to start planning the Women's Spring Beach Retreat! This amazing weekend includes time to bond with other St. Philip's women, engage in Bible study, pray, learn about each other, and enjoy time together in Lewes or Rehoboth, DE. The weekend's theme is still in development, but you're sure to have a good time sharing stories with each other and talking about how God moves in our lives.

At this time, the planning committee needs to know how many women to plan for so that we are able to rent a house large enough. Please read the details below.

- The dates of the 2025 Women's Retreat will be April 25-27, 2025.
- The cost will be around \$200 per person. This covers the house rental for two nights, some food, and materials.
- The beds in the house are kings, queens, and some twins. You may need to share a bed with a friend.

We will do our best to find a house with multiple 1st floor bedrooms and limited stairs. If you are interested in joining us for the 2025 Women's Spring Retreat, please sign-up by clicking on the following link. This is not a binding commitment, but a "Yes, I am really interested in attending the retreat." The committee will find a house and put down a deposit based on these numbers, figuring give and take on a few. Those who sign-up here will have the first choice of bedrooms once we have a house.

[Click here to show your interest in attending the Spring Women's Retreat.](#)

Please indicate your interest on this sign-up by November 17, 2024. If you have questions, reach out to Dawn Downes



A festive poster for a children's advent workshop. The background is white with a gold border. At the top, a string of gold dots hangs across the width. Various Christmas ornaments are scattered around: a round bauble with a star, a candy cane, a five-pointed star, a sock, and several snowflakes. The text is centered and reads: "CHILDREN'S Advent WORKSHOP ST PHILIP'S FELLOWSHIP HALL DEC | 8th | 9:15AM-10:15AM JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR ADVENT ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, AND A SNACK. PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 24TH SO WE CAN PLAN FOR ENOUGH SUPPLIES INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR! ALL AGES WELCOME". A QR code is located at the bottom center, flanked by a gold leafy branch and a snowflake.

CHILDREN'S
Advent
WORKSHOP
ST PHILIP'S
FELLOWSHIP HALL
DEC | **8th** | 9:15AM-10:15AM
JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR ADVENT
ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, AND A SNACK.
PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 24TH
SO WE CAN PLAN FOR ENOUGH SUPPLIES
INVITE A
FRIEND OR
NEIGHBOR!

ALL
AGES
WELCOME

In October, Mission Kids teamed up with Youth Group and took an adventure to Milburn Orchards. We had incredible weather, enjoyed the outdoors with friends, picked lots of apples, and ate delicious apple cider donuts!



Coming up on November 23rd @ 4pm, we will host our 3rd annual Friendsgiving dinner in the fellowship hall. We will provide rotisserie chickens, and each family will bring a side dish or dessert to share. Keep an eye out for a Signup Genius in your email!



December 8th we will celebrate with an Advent workshop from 9:15-10:15am in the Fellowship hall. Join us for fun Advent activities, crafts, and a snack. A sign up will be coming in the November Guidepost! (See Page 13)

HELP BUILD OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH!

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

The **nursery** is open during both services on Sunday morning and during the Christian Ed hour in between.

Educational programs continue through November:

- **Kid's Club** at 9:15 Sunday morning (The Bible According to Bluey)
- **Breakfast Club** at 9:15 Sunday morning
- **Adult Small Group Bible Study** at 9:15 Sunday morning and 10:00 Tuesday morning (Rappin' with Luther)

Mission Kids and **Youth Group** continue to gather regularly. Check out specific pages for programming details.

Looking ahead: the **Advent Workshop** will take place on December 8 at 9:15 in the fellowship hall. Details to come later.

There will NOT be any Christian Ed programming on the following Sundays:

- December 1 (Thanksgiving weekend)
- December 22 and 29 (Christmas break)

Check out the Lending Library in Rooms 128 and 129, 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.

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?**

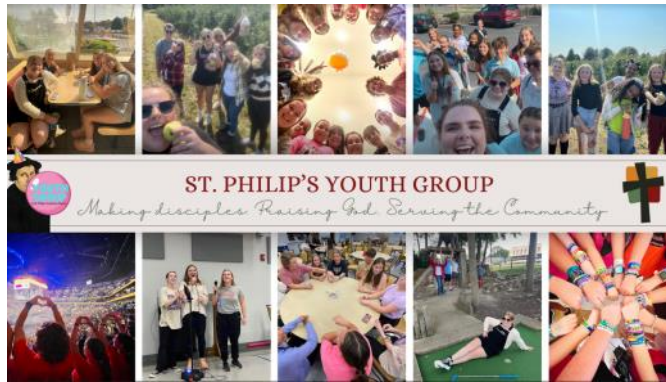
Either way, the youth group will be doing their

**Annual Babysitting Project and Activity Night on
Friday, December 13th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Drop your kids off and we'll have crafts, games,
movies, video games, snacks,
and more. The cost? Well, it is whatever you want to donate.**

**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 Amy!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 2024

- November 3 – Fall Clean-Up (12-3pm)
 - Bring a lunch/snack
- November 10 – Driving Scavenger Hunt (12-3:30pm)
 - Bring a lunch/snack
- November 15-17 – Synod Middle + High School Retreat in Falling Waters, WV
- November 24 - No Youth Group - Thanksgiving Break

December 2024

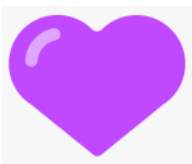
- December 1 – Longwood Gardens Christmas (4-7pm)
- December 8 - Advent Workshop (9:15-10:15am)
- December 13 (Friday) - Babysitting Service Project Night (5-9pm)
- December 14th or 21st– Christmas Caroling
- December 15 - Christmas Gift Service Project (12-3:30pm)
- December 22 - Christmas Decorating + YG Christmas Party (12-3pm)
- December 29 - No Youth Group



Youth Group Fall Clean-Up Day Service Project – Nov. 3!

As fall rolls in, are there leaves collecting on your lawn? What about leftover weeds from the summer heat? Do you need a little teenage muscle to help move things, winterize rooms, etc? The Youth Group is having their Clean-Up Day Service Project after worship on **Sunday, November 3rd from 12-3:30 pm**. The youth can help with landscaping, taking out the trash, cleaning, or whatever you may need. Please contact Pastor Amy if you would like assistance that day.

From Youth Group Game and Karaoke Night! - Pastor Amy



From the Water is Life Kenya Lunch and Learn - Outreach Team



From the Habitat Restoration Crew - David Porter

Join the HABITAT RESTORATION CREW! The current project is removing invasive plants and vines from around the trees and in meadow areas. Upcoming work dates follow a **first Saturday, third Wednesday of each month** pattern, **8:30 to 10:00 a.m.** each day. Mark your calendars now!! Helpful tools to bring: Large loppers, large digging shovels, sturdy hand-held garden pruners, small bow or pruning saw, sturdy leather [or other thorn-resistant] gloves, leaf and grass rakes. Be sure to mark your personal tools. Contact Phil Duncan to let him know you are coming.

Mission Kids and Youth Group Trip to Milburn Orchard! - Anna Grieder and Pastor Amy



Mission Kids and Youth Group Trip to Milburn Orchard! - Anna Grieder and Pastor Amy



Stephen Ministry

As our days seem shorter and darkness is earlier, some folks may feel a bit sad or "down" to say "goodbye" to summer. Where did it go? You can always talk about those feelings and emotions with a Stephen Minister. Let one of the pastors or Gigi Mueller know.

Shepherding Team

The next
Shepherds meeting **Monday,**
November 4th @
1 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall.



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! The **first Koinonia Group** that meets at St. Philip's will be **meeting, Sunday, TBD at 6:30 p.m.** we will be studying the book of Parables. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. A **second group**, that meets with the Mueller's, that Koinonia group will meet on **Sunday, TBD at 6:30 pm at the Mueller's home.** The discussion will be a continuation of Pastor Mueller's lunch and learn on the current condition in Palestine. Please let Gigi Mueller know if you have any questions and if you are coming. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.



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

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 **November 14th 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.

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.



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. Any questions contact Dave or Donna Porter

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.

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, November 13, 2024 and November 27, 2024

From Habitat Restoration Crew - Phil Duncan



The Crew was out in force in September to replace about 200 native grass plugs that did not survive the spring installation. A beautiful day and a great turnout of "pluggers" made short work of the installation. Most of the original plantings are doing great, gradually turning an eyesore into a healthy grassland.

More clearing and planting events to come, so watch for announcements and please join us when you can!!

St. Philips Next Host Week: November 17-23, 2024

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed food, time, and supplies during St. Philips Family Promise host week! Our next host week will be November 17-23. Sign-up posters will be in the Narthex with menus listing food you can provide in mid-October. We will also email out a Sign-Up Genius link for perishables items which will be collected before November 17.

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

The week of: November 17, 2024 to November 23, 2024

From Walktoberfest for LCS - Susan Mack





Fall has arrived and the leaves are turning brilliant colors and with the upcoming Advent Season – Altar Guild wants to wish everyone Blessings and tidings of joy during this busy time of the year.

I want to say THANK YOU to all the members of Altar Guild and the Bread Baking Ministry and Banner Detail for all the time and commitment they have made to serving on this committee. The next Altar Guild Meeting will be January 6, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Social Hall, St. Philip's Church

I would like to invite you to come out to our meeting – join us and see if Altar Guild may be a committee that you would like to serve on – to share your talents.

Watch for the article in the Annual Report as part of Congregational Meeting to be held in January. (I think our meeting is before this Congregational meeting – so come on by and join us) :))

Sincerely, Carol Oesterbo, Altar Guild Chairperson



**An exciting ministry is returning to
St. Philip's!
"DINNERS OF EIGHT"**

Meal fellowship, in the form of our "Dinners of Eight" ministry, seeks to offer members of our congregation, their friends and possibly, in time, people of other faiths, opportunities to experience and foster relationship with one another. With smaller gatherings of eight people the dinners are relatively easy to pull off and those with smaller homes are also able to participate as host. Once established, with guests taking their turn at hosting a gathering, the ministry tends to sustain and grow itself.

Look for signup sheets to be posted in the Narthex in the coming weeks allowing all congregation members the opportunity to participate in a "dinner of eight". Those that choose to host should provide the main course and beverage and ask the others coming to dinner to bring an appetizer, vegetable, salad, or dessert. After meeting and sharing dinner, it is encouraged that the guests in attendance host a dinner of their own, with an open invitation to members of the congregation to join. As this process is repeated the ministry is able to expand.

I look forward to witnessing our congregation come together and grow into a community bound together in fellowship. For more information please contact Allyson Myers or Gigi Mueller.



Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware

✿ Grateful thanks for all that you do! ✿

During this season in which we focus on giving thanks, the students, staff, and Directing Committee of LCM at UD join me in thanking you for all the ways in which you support our students and our ministry:

- Thank you for a successful and blessed **fundraiser** on Saturday afternoon, November 2! Your outpouring of baskets, gifts, and donations means so much.
- Bless you for providing tasty, home-cooked **meals** for our students on Tuesday evenings and for joining us for fellowship and conversation at our chapel.
- Thank you for keeping our students in your **prayers**, as they navigate challenging academic schedules while still prioritizing faith, service, and Christian community.
- Thank you for your generous **financial gifts**, both congregational and individual, which help to sustain and build this ministry with and among young adults.
- Thank you for your **faithful partnership** in embodying the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a broken and needy world, longing for community, reconciliation, and healing.

We also invite your help in finding two new resource people by the new year:

- A new **staff or faculty advisor** for LCM (must be a full-time employee of UD.)
- An experienced **metal worker** (for a special project!)

I wish everyone good health, safe and memorable travels, and joyous and blessed Thanksgiving celebrations! May God's peace guide us in overcoming challenges, whether local or international, and may our Lord's grace, hope, and joy surround and sustain you and your loved ones.

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



LCM students who helped with our recent property work day! ☺

Great Hilltop News!



The students at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center successfully navigated through the first 2 months of the new school year by acclimating to new classrooms and teachers, celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day, and even made it past the ghosts and goblins of Halloween! But the big news came from our Executive Director, Michelle Williams. For several years the Hilltop Center has dreamed of expanding its facilities to serve more children and offer more and varied activities for our students. That dream came closer to reality when Michelle says she "received a call from Governor John Carney on September 30th. He let me know that he will be giving Hilltop \$2 million for the expansion project. The funds will come from the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He let me know that I will be receiving a call from someone in his office soon." This grant comes on the heels of the Delaware General Assembly voting to grant the Center \$1million through the Legislature's Reinvestment Fund. We still have a long way to go to fulfill our dream, but this is very welcome news! Our thanks to the Governor and Delaware General Assembly for these substantial grants.

Elsewhere at Hilltop, Center Deputy Director Brandon Furrowh reports that parents, children, staff, and community members took part in the final event under the Prevent Child Abuse Delaware grant. "This event included interactive games, barbequed hotdogs, hamburgers, and chicken, along with beverages, desserts, and salads. Our DJ played tunes that engaged youth and adults alike in dancing, and card/board games were placed at every table for family enjoyment. The group," Brandon says, "left with the opportunity to fill out evaluations of the program in its entirety, of which they all expressed a desire to continue family engagement activities."



We look forward to future events to help our friends prevent child abuse.

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



Outreach Update

Water is Life Kenya – About sixty St Philip's folks gathered after church on September 29 to hear an update on the Water is Life Kenya well project that the church is funding as part of the capital campaign. WILK co-founder Joyce Tannian shared information and photos about St. Luke's School where the well will be located and talked about the difference the well will make to students, the school, and the community. Thank you to those who helped prepared and serve lunch that day! ***Save the date for Kenya Culture Night*** on Saturday January 11th.

LCS Walktoberfest – On Sept 21st, St Philip's walkers joined with many other supporters of Lutheran Community Services to complete a 5k walk/run in the neighborhood near Concordia Lutheran Church. This was followed by many fun activities for families and some delicious German food and beer. All of this for one fantastic purpose – to raise funds for the food pantries run by LCS in Wilmington! Go to <https://lcsde.org/> to learn more about the great work done by LCS, to find out about volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation.

Family Promise – A huge thanks to all who provided food and household supplies for the September host week for Family Promise. Watch for signups for the next host week beginning November 14th. St Philip's will again partner with St. Catherine's to provide food for the week. FP also held its annual fund-raising breakfast on October 1st and shared its exciting plans for the expansion at the Jesus House location. Go to <https://www.familypromisede.org/> or see Marty Budd or Rebecca Bardenhagen for more info.

Thanksgiving Baskets – See the for signup genius for the food donations needed for Thanksgiving Baskets for our ***Grocery Club families*** and for families at ***Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center***. St. Philip's members have been amazingly generous in past years and we once again plan on providing food for 90 families this Thanksgiving. ***The food is due at church by Sunday November 17th.***
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-52288724-2024>

Lutheran Campus Ministry – Elizabeth Stirk is assembling a Book Lovers' Basket with donations from St Philip's book club members for the LCM annual fundraiser. Mindy Holland invites you to the annual fundraiser to be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on 11/2 at 1:30 p.m. Bishop Gohl will be the auctioneer!

Looking Ahead Mark your calendars for two fun and festive events in December:

Chesapeake Brass Band – Thursday December 12 at 7 p.m.

Christmas Caroling at Member's homes – Saturday December 14 at 3 p.m. Caroling to homebound members followed by pizza and cookies at church.

St. Philip's Lutheran Church & Water is Life Kenya Partnership Water Project Update



ST. PHILIP'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



On Sunday, September 29th, the team from Water is Life Kenya (WILK), Joyce Tannian and Aaron Lemma, joined the congregation at St. Philip's for a very successful Lunch and Learn. More than 60 members of the church came to learn more about WILK as an organization as well as the latest and greatest happenings in Inkisanjani. Although drilling has not started just yet, the people of Inkisanjani speak about the hope they have for the well as they prepare for final authorization to drill. There is extraordinary excitement within the community. Easy access to a clean and sustainable water source will provide for an incredibly positive impact for the woman and entire community at Inkisanjani.

Below you will find the latest timeline for next steps on the project.

Next steps: The Timeline

Activity	Date
Receive Authorization to drill	mid-November
Leaders register new members	October– December
Drilling the borehole	November or December
Test pump the borehole	December 2024
Construction	Jan - Feb 2025
Installation of Pump and Power supply	February 2025
St. Philips Church Travel team, Inskinsanjani and WILK team CELEBRATE THE OPENING!!!!	July 2025!!!



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 15th
and return to the church office or drop it in
the offering plate.**

The cost per plant (red only) will be \$20.00 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 _____

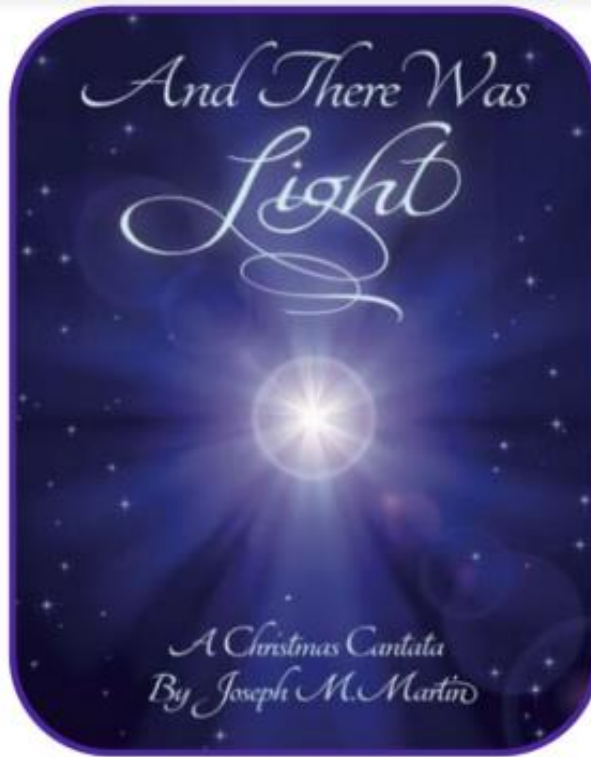
Number of Poinsettias @ \$20.00 Each _____

Dedication:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____



And There Was Light: A Christmas Cantata, by Joseph M. Martin. Join us on Sunday, **December 15, 2024, at 7:00 PM**. A free-will donation to support our Refugee Families will be taken. Following the Cantata, we will gather for a cookie and cocoa reception.

How the Actual Election Process Can Affect Various Groups

We are privileged in the USA to be able to participate in the election process. I look forward to it. I drive about a mile to the polling place and the longest I have had to wait was five minutes. It is so easy that I take the process for granted. This, however, is not the same experience for many in our country. Some laws have good intentions but often have disproportionate negative consequences for certain groups.

Take, for instance, a voter ID. It sounds like a logical security step. Who determines what forms of ID are acceptable, though? If you have to get an ID at the DMV, some groups, often low-income or those with disabilities, may face significant obstacles. Individuals may not have a copy of a birth certificate due to transiency, homelessness, crises like fire or natural disaster, domestic violence, or family chaos. Many of the teens I worked with as a school counselor, particularly those within the foster care system, had few records, as there was often no parent alive or accessible or the birth parent had substance issues or was incarcerated. DMVs are also less commonly located in cities where public transportation is available and more often located outside the city where a car is needed. One also needs a street address for an ID which has been a problem for some Native Americans who live on reservations.

Decreasing the number of voting drop boxes and polling stations has also been promoted as being fiscally responsible and more secure since there are less areas to monitor. Again, the reductions often occur more frequently in low-income areas. As an example, the Brennan Center for Justice reported Georgia barred counties from having more than 1 drop box per 100,000 voters and limited their locations and hours, causing the number of drop boxes in four metro Atlanta counties to fall from 107 to 25. This leads to longer waiting times at the polls (several hours at some places) with even one state restricting individuals from bringing food or water in line. Low-income individuals also more frequently work in hourly wage positions and are impacted disproportionately with time away from work.

Everyone wants voting vigilance, but it needs to be equitable to all groups.

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, Carol Ruckle, Sharon Smith, Louise James, Ethel Reichley, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Dave Frampton, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Elizabeth Stirk, Barbara Stadelberger, Jeff Stirk, Charlie Boss, Debra Gelesh, Richard Braun, Ellen Lenker, Janette Saxton, Phyllis Bolgiano, Anita Sterling, Donna Daugherty, Yvonne Cilento, Fred Pratola

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, Christina Ruble & Family**, 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; **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; **David Martin, Diane Balinski, Debra Jennings, & Barney Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Jermaine & Joslyn Sanders**, friends of Nancy Zinnato; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family of Mark & Marge Davis; **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; **The Family of Robert Schuh**, family of Diana Longhenry; **Martin Page & Family**, friends of Mike Rosen; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Alistair Black**, grandson of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Mike & Jeanie Kelly**, friends, & **Family of Rosemary Herron**, Loved ones of Edna Basilio; **Carol Henzy**, sister & **Bill Molnar**, husband of Beth Molnar; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman; **Henry Houtmann**, grandson & **Doris S. & Kathleen K.**, friends of Anne Hamilton; **Frank Kulick**, brother of Ruth Bowles; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak; **Michele Levanduski**, Family of Paul Gelesh; **Kristi Barnett**, friend of Angela Klemens; **Rick Ricciardi**, brother of Nancy Warner; **Henry Jones**, father of Derrick Thompson, **Carla Solano and Family**, cousin of Bonnie Anderson; **Michelle Nevins**, wife of David Nevins; **Craig Florschutz**, husband of Jennifer Florschutz

Happy Birthday from your Church Family!

November Birthday's

Colby Stirk	11/1	Jim Dickinson	11/15
Gerry Butler	11/2	Jodi Cookson	11/20
Caleb Cutler	11/2	Reagan Bailey	11/21
Amanda DeWeese	11/3	Adrienne Basilio	11/21
Lily Greenley	11/3	Lynn Muller	11/21
Benjamin DeWeese	11/5	Jerry Aunet	11/21
Phyllis Bolgiano	11/5	Bob Wardwell	11/21
Hilde Crothers	11/7	Ronan Budd	11/22
Robert Fry, Jr.	11/7	Veronica Stevens	11/24
Andrew Peoples	11/7	Nora Sanderson	11/24
Frances Taylor	11/7	Kathleen Streamer	11/24
Ruth Bowles	11/8	Anthony DiFiore	11/25
Teri O'Hara	11/10	Maranda Sheffer	11/25
Maryann Shovestul	11/10	Dana Hauser	11/28
Sarah Myers	11/11	Diana Longhenry	11/29
Ann-Marie Peoples	11/11	Charlie Boss	11/30
Dylan Florschutz	11/14	Chris O'Brien	11/30
Ella King	11/13	Brittaney (Christopher) Haga	11/30
Richard Braun	11/15		

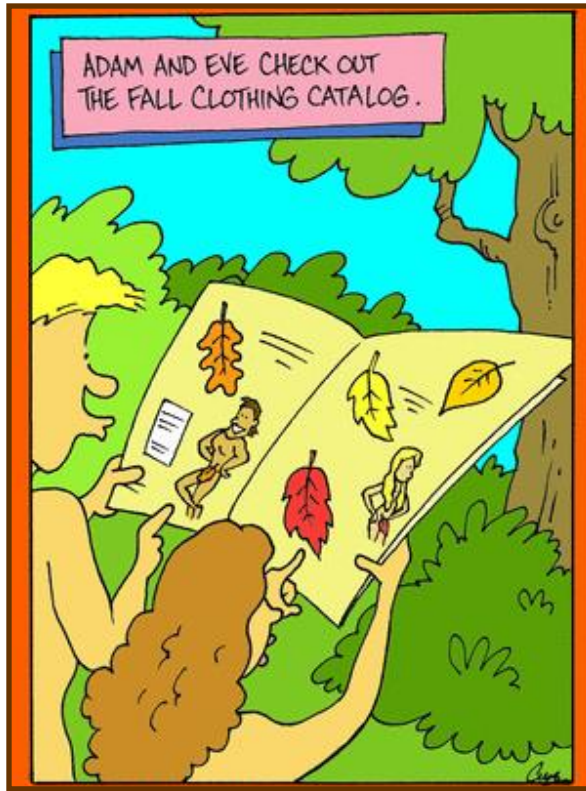
May God Bless You on Your Special Day!



Congratulations to:

Rebekah and Ted Barron
who welcomed **Elizabeth Jayne Barron**
on Saturday, October 12, 2024
7 lbs 24 ozs

Elizabeth is the granddaughter of Debbi Miller!



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
Amanda DeWeese, Vice President
Teri Suddard, Treasurer
Liz Freburger, Secretary
Mike Berkheimer, Financial Secretary

Council:

Coleman Bye
Carol Johnson
David Kenney
Mary Kay LaRue
John Longo

Council (continues):

Debbi Miller
Dave Porter
Mike Rosen
Jim Stevens

Committees/Activities:

Altar Guild.....
Christian Education.....
Enviro. Stewardship.....
Fellowship.....
Finance/Audit.....
Grocery Club.....
Habitat Restoration Group
Outreach.....
Prayer Ministry.....
Property.....
.....
Racial Justice Task Force
Worship and Music.....

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

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