

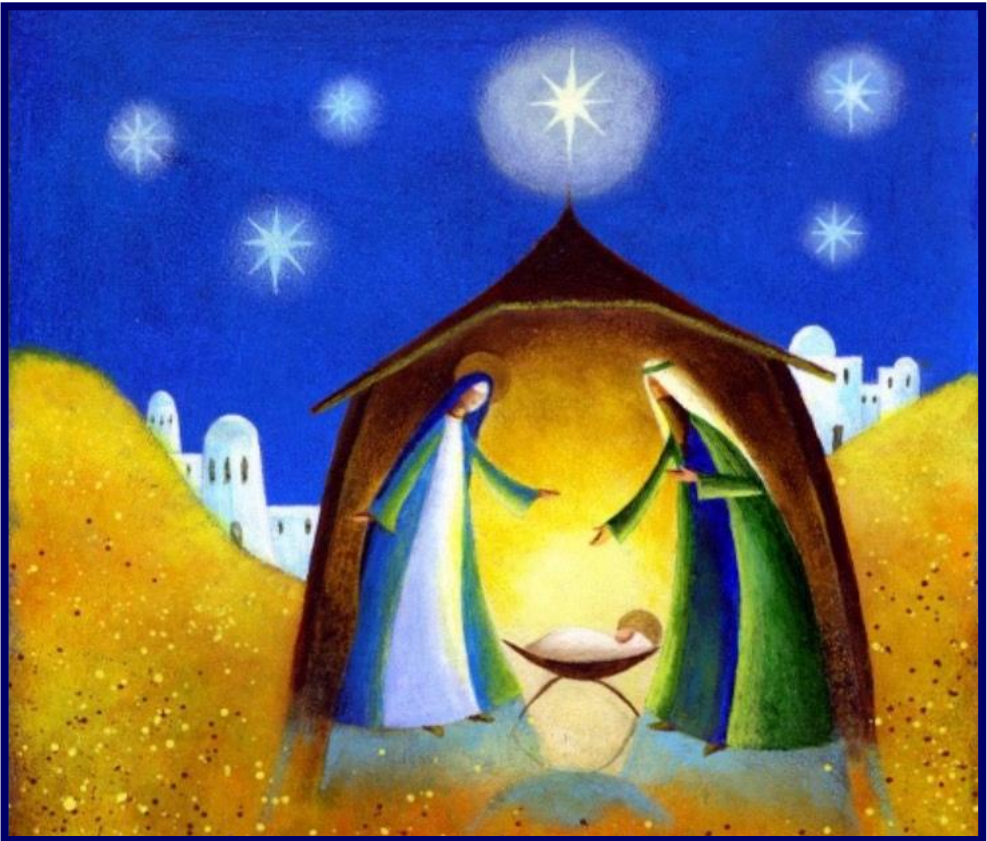
The Guidepost



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



December 2024



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

Building Progress Report for Basement and Parking Lot (and Windows)

Things are really rolling along with the construction projects we have going on around the church. While the only way you see the basement is if you go down there, the parking lot work will be much more visible very soon. So, be sure to check out the pictures we have in the coming pages of this Guidepost and you'll see what's happening. But, wait, there's more . . .

Basement

The basement has really been moving forward. Tom Krapf and his crew are down there almost every day working. The entire basement is almost entirely framed now. The elevator shaft has been constructed and the "pit" has been dug for beneath the elevator. You can even see how the two restrooms are taking shape. And that is because plumbing has begun to be installed in the men's and women's rooms. Things will begin to get enclosed as soon as the plumbing and electrical and insulation are completed. Keep an eye out for more pictures.

Parking Lot

The contract for the parking lot has been signed and we have all our approvals. Construction on the parking lot should begin before the end of the month with a projected completion date of March or April depending on weather. You should begin to see the area get staked out, silt fencing installed and earth work starting within the next couple weeks.

Windows

I know this one is surprising you, but we are going to doing work on the windows of the church. For the last couple years we have been dealing with leaks in several of the windows, primarily in the Social Hall. After contacting Anderson Windows, we discovered that the series of windows used in much of the church has a design defect. So, after tireless work by Dave Thompson and John Newcomer, we have a warranty solution provided by Anderson Windows. They will be replacing all the windows in the social hall and they will repair the windows in the rest of the church that are not leaking. The repair work will cost us nothing. The replacement windows will be purchased by Anderson, but we'll have to have an installer put them in. So, there will be some cost that we bear. But, this was an ideal solution given what we could have faced.

Anyway, check out the pictures later on in this Guidepost edition and see all that's happening in the basement!!

Advent Greetings to you all,

I am a huge fan of PIE! Pecan, pumpkin, cherry, blueberry, French silk: you name it! As long as it's served with ice cream I am good! But there is a pie I don't like: the math, 3.14159 kind. I remember struggling in my 10th grade geometry class with my compass. This lesson was all about drawing a perfect circle and I remember how much I struggled to make and draw a perfect circle. They never seemed good enough. *Anyone else struggle with that, too?* I had to get the right radius so I could find the circumference and I had to plug in all the right formulas. We started talking and learning about finding the area and circumference of a circle using 3.14 for pi. We kept talking about this pi and all it did was make me hungry because my geometry class was close to lunch time.

I was thinking about this memory the other day, and it made me think of a bunch of things that are circles: pie (the food kind), wedding rings and bands, hula hoops, steering wheels, ornaments on your Christmas tree, and one that stands out most to me, during this Advent season, is the Advent wreath that we light for each of the weeks of Advent. It is each candle that we remember the gifts that the Christ child brings into our world everyday: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

One scholar wrote, "The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People sought the return of the sun in the dark time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. As early as the middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world. This symbolism can be just as strong for us today. As is the case with all symbols, they speak most loudly to remind us of God's promises of life."

People of God, we are *encircled* in God's loving care every single day. I think about all of us together, in the different cities and towns and states we all come from. As we draw a circle connecting all of our houses we notice what's in the center: our church. The circle of connection we make is centered in the miracle of Christmas. Thanks be to God. And thanks be to God for you.

God's Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love; be with you always!

Ah, Christmas! Many of us get caught up in all of the excitement—preparing meals, shopping, writing cards, wrapping presents, preparing for family and friends.

And those folks may actually be dealing with the easier challenges. Some have to travel, others are alone or ill. Many may think about loved ones who are no longer with them.

In this time of mixed emotions and stress, what we all really need is to pause and consider the true meaning of Christmas—

The real Christmas message heralds the entrance of God into human history. It is as though the Heavenly trumpeter has announced to a troubled world and to us individually the coming of the Prince of Peace.

As it is written:

Fear not, I bring you good news (Luke 2)

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders and he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

I recently purchased a book by Max Lucado entitled: [Because of Bethlehem Love Is Born, Hope Is Here](#). It's not expensive or a difficult book to read, and it has given me a chance to look at the season in a different light. The book allowed me to take a new and fresh look at a very familiar story. My biggest take away: Christmas begins what Easter celebrates.

As we enter the Advent and the Christmas season, I wish you peace and happiness. Center your heart on the true meaning of Christmas and always remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Happy Holidays!

Taming the Tongue

As we navigate the current political landscape in our nation, it's impossible to ignore the unrest and division that surrounds us. Election seasons often bring out the best and worst in us, and the rhetoric can become harsh and divisive. In this challenging climate, we are called to reflect on our faith and the teachings of scripture.

James 3:3-12 offers profound wisdom that is particularly relevant today:

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue, we praise our Lord and Father, and with it, we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. These verses remind us of the immense power our words hold. In a time of political discord, it's easy to let frustration and anger spill out. Yet, as children of God, we are called to a higher standard. We must remember that everyone, regardless of their political beliefs, is created in the image of God. Let us approach one another with tolerance and respect, understanding that our differences are part of what makes our community rich and diverse. Instead of fueling the fires of division, let us be peacemakers, allowing our words to uplift rather than tear down.

As we engage in discussions—whether in person, online, or within our own families—let's pause and reflect on how we can embody grace and understanding. May our speech reflect the love of Christ, drawing us closer together instead of pushing us apart.

In this season of uncertainty, let us commit to practicing patience with one another, choosing to listen more and judge less. As we do so, we honor not just our fellow human beings, but our Creator as well. May we strive to be vessels of fresh water in a world that often pours out salt.

Amen.



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: _____



St. Philip's Christmas Schedule

Advent Vespers Service Times

Advent Devotional Service

Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th and 18th

6:30 p.m. Soup and Bread Dinner

7:00 p.m. Evening Vespers

Christmas Concert

Diamond State Concert Band

Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Concert

Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band

Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.

St. Philip's Christmas Cantata

And There was Light - A Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Cookies and Hot Chocolate Reception to follow

The Longest Night Healing Service

A Winter Solstice Evening Service of Healing

Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

Family Christmas Eve Worship Service

with Holy Communion

6:30 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

with Holy Communion

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

And There Was Light

And There Was Light: A Christmas Cantata

Join us Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**A free will donation to support our Refugee Families will be taken.
Following the Cantata, we will gather for a cookie
and cocoa reception.**

*A Christmas Cantata
By Joseph M. Martin*

**Diamond State
Concert Band**

Thursday, December 5th, 2024

at 7:00 p.m.



**A Christmas Concert - Chesapeake Silver
Cornet Brass Band**

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

at 7:00 p.m.

Longest Night Healing Service

Tuesday, December 17th, 2024

at 6:30 p.m.



Advent Vespers Service: - In this season of peace and joy, join us for a time of rest and peace in the middle of each week. On **Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th and 18th** we'll gather in the fellowship hall at **6:30 p.m.** for Soup and Bread Dinner (**a sign up poster to volunteer to bring soup or bread is in the narthex**), and then at **about 7:00 p.m.** we will move to the sanctuary for the "Holden Evening Prayer" Vespers Service. Come be refreshed by food and fellowship with God and one another.



From Outreach - Caroling - Susan Mack



Come out for a fun afternoon of CAROLING to homebound members

Followed by pizza, hot chocolate, and cookies in the Fellowship Hall

Jingle bells and Santa hats encouraged!

Saturday, December 14th from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Sign up on the Poster in Narthex!!



From Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center and Grocery Club - Elizabeth Stirk/Nancy Zinnato



Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center: We are again collecting **Christmas presents (clothing item/s and toy)** for children that participate at HLNC. They are from working families who struggle on their low incomes to provide holiday gifts. You can sign up on the poster in the Narthex. **Please bring wrapped and tagged presents to church by Sunday, December 22nd.** We will deliver the presents to Hilltop after the 10:30 service that day. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Stirk.

Women's Ministry

The Daytime Women's Book Club meets once a month. *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah is the discussion for Our Annual Christmas Social is **December 17th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall**. Gigi will be sending out an email so you can sign up for what you are bringing.

The Daytime Women's Book Club meets once a month. The January book has not been determined yet. We will gather at **12:30 p.m. on January 21, 2025** in Room #127.

THE YOUNG AT HEART GROUP will meet again at Gigi's on **Saturday, January 18th, 2025, from 1:30-3:00 p.m.**... as the date gets closer, please let Gigi know if you are coming.

We discussed having a fundraising event at the Women's Retreat. It was suggested to maybe have a chili supper and raffle off gift baskets. Let Gigi know if you have any interest in this or if you have any other ideas!

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. 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!

11/11/2024

03:49p

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

	October Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Percent of Budget
Income				
Group 00	42,097.58	453,722.52	415,049.97	109.32 %
Total Income	42,097.58	453,722.52	415,049.97	109.32 %
Expense				
Administration	1,990.35	30,680.99	31,583.40	97.14 %
Committees	12,008.92	157,640.64	157,891.60	99.84 %
Pastor	10,860.70	108,495.56	109,801.60	98.81 %
Staff	16,711.53	169,771.22	170,919.00	99.33 %
Utilities	1,684.34	16,488.26	19,333.30	85.28 %
Benevolence	1,458.33	14,583.30	14,583.30	100.00 %
Total Expense	44,714.17	497,659.97	504,112.20	98.72 %
Income Less Expense	-2,616.59	-43,937.45	-89,062.23	



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.

Women's Spring Retreat - Dawn Downes



**Kid's Club support
the Youth at To-
gether in Faith!**

**Also, a couple
class pictures!**



A festive poster for a children's advent workshop. It features a gold border and various Christmas-themed illustrations: a string of lights with a round ornament, a star, a candy cane, and a snowflake; a striped sock; several snowflakes of different sizes; and a laurel wreath. The text is centered and uses a mix of serif and script fonts. A QR code is located at the bottom center, flanked by the phrases 'INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!' and 'ALL AGES WELCOME'.

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**



Kid's Club and Mission Kids! - Anna Grieder and Liz Freburger

The Mission Kids have been very busy this fall! In October we joined forces with the Youth Group and picked apples together at Milburn Orchards! And in November we gathered in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Friendsgiving! Every year our table grows bigger and bigger! We hope even more families join us next year!

Join us December 8th at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Advent workshop! The kids will learn, make crafts, and enjoy a snack. Sign up below if your child is interested in participating or if you would like to volunteer to assist with this fun event. Stay tuned for our list of events coming in 2025!

Advent Workshop Kid Sign Up:





From Pub Theology - Pastor Amy

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!”*

****Please note: we will be taking a break, due to the Holiday Season, but we will be back in January! Our next Pub Theology will be Thursday, January 16th from 6:30-8:30pm at Chuck Lagers!***

Let us ring in the New Year together with beer and each other at Pub Theology!

See you then! Cheers!



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. Contact Maryann Shovestul if you have any questions.

Kid's Club and **Breakfast Club** continue to meet on Sunday morning at 9:15.

The **Adult Small Group Bible Study** (Rappin' with Luther) concludes on December 15. After a Christmas break adults will begin a winter **Large Group Video series**. It will run from January 12 - February 23 in the fellowship hall. Pastor Patrick will lead this Adam Hamilton series about Moses. Everyone is invited to drop in whenever they can.

The annual **Advent Workshop** will be held on December 8 from 9:15-10:15 in the fellowship hall. Families and friends are invited for crafts and fellowship time. The youth group will lead stations and help the younger children with crafts.

Looking ahead there will be a **Together in Faith Breakfast on January 5 at 9:15**. Come enjoy great food and fellowship. If you are able to contribute food sign up on the poster in the narthex or use the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA5AB2BA7FE3-together1>

There will be **no** Christian Ed programming on December 1 (Thanksgiving weekend) or 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?**

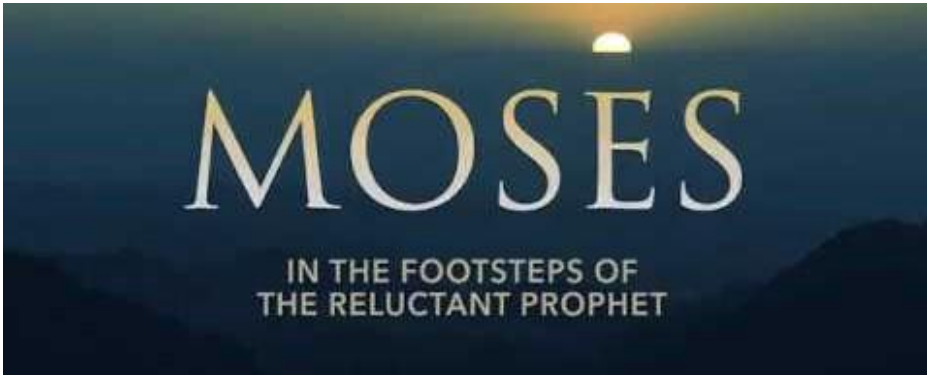
Either way, the youth group will be doing their

**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!



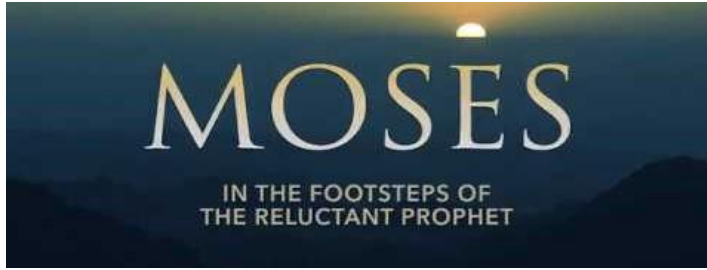
**Join us For A Special Winter Video Series Journey
Alongside the first Biblical Prophet, Moses**

On Sunday Mornings January 12 - February 23, 2024 at 9:15 am
Classes will be held in the Social Hall Led By Pastor Patrick
and are all about The Life and Impact of the Prophet, Moses.

The Birth of Moses
Two Moments that Defined the Man
The Exodus
The Ten Commandments
Lessons from the Wilderness
Don't forget . . . Pass it On
The Legacy of Moses

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





Session 1 January 12th: The Birth of Moses

We know the story, but what were the significant details of Moses birth and raising?

Session 2 January 19th: Two Moments that Defined the Man

Moses may have been born an Israelite, but two things change the course of his life and the salvation history of an entire people,

Session 3: January 26th: The Exodus

The most significant event in the history of Moses' people.

Session 4 February 2nd: The Ten Commandments

Laws to be sure, but more a sense of commitment to each other.

Session 5 February 9th: Lessons from the Wilderness

What we do in life when we are "going nowhere."

Session 6 February 16th: Don't Forget . . . Pass it On

The events in the wilderness have shaped the Jewish People.

Session 7 February 23rd: The Legacy of Moses

The Enduring Impact of Moses on People of Faith



UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 2024

- December 1 - Longwood Gardens Christmas
- **We have a GREAT group going! For those who signed up, I have your tickets, and our timed admission is for 7:30PM. We can enter into the gardens as early as 30 minutes before. For those that want to carpool (or just want to drive over together), we will meet at the church at 6:40PM. We will head out & everyone will meet outside the check-in doors at 7:10/15PM so we can check-in together! We are going to have so much fun!
- If you signed up, please make all checks out to "St. Philip's Youth Group" for your ticket amount and give them to Pr. Amy. Adults: \$42, Youth: \$23.
- December 8 - Advent Workshop with Mission Kids (9:15-10:15am)
- December 13 (Friday) - Babysitting Service Project Night (5-9pm) at church
- It's a night where we hang out with the Mission Kids & babysit them for a few hours! We play games with them, bake cookies, and have a good time! It's a great fundraiser for us & it's great service hours!
- December 14 (Saturday) - Christmas Caroling @ 3pm (meet at church)
- December 15 - Christmas Service Project (12-3:30pm)
- We use the money we got from the Babysitting Night to buy items for people in need in our community! We go to Target. We run around. We have a great time!! We wrap gifts. You won't want to miss this!
- December 22 - Christmas Decorating + YG Christmas Party (12-3pm)
- We are going to help decorate the church, set up the trees, etc.! We will then have a catered lunch for our Youth Group Christmas Party!

- Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift that can be up to a \$15 value.
- Feel free to bring a favorite Christmas dessert to share as well!
- December 29 - No Youth Group

January 2025

- January 5 - Ice Skating @ UD + UDairy Ice Cream (12:30-3:30pm)

Together in Faith



A Community Learning Experience for all Ages



Sunday, January 5, 2025

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

- Adults and Youth will share and fellowship
- Kid's Club will meet as usual.
- If you are able to contribute food sign up on the poster in the narthex or use the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA5AB2BA7FE3-together1>

***The Nursery Will Be Open!**

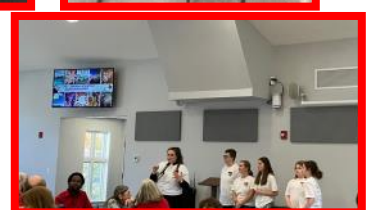
From Youth Group Events: Blind Taste Testing, Pumpkin Carving, Fall Clean-up



BLIND TASTE TEST



From Youth Sunday/Together in Faith - Pastor Amy



From Synod Youth Event - Pastor Amy



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I just wanted to wish all of you a Happy New Year, since the new year starts on Sunday, December 1, 2024. As a liturgical church, Lutherans follow a set order for the year, beginning with Advent, which in 2024 starts on December 1st.

As Lutherans, we follow a 3-year cycle of Bible readings. It's nice to know that so many churches around the world are all hearing the same words from the Bible on the same Sunday that we are. If you are interested in learning more about this 3-year lectionary cycle, you can check it out here: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/worship/lectionary>.

Another aspect of being a liturgical church is that Lutherans follow a set order for our worship services. At St. Philip's, we occasionally change the music and the actual words used in the liturgy, but the basic order remains the same. The four parts of the service are the Gathering, the Word, the Meal and the Sending.

Gathering: In the gathering, the Holy Spirit brings us together and prepares us to hear the Word of God and receive Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion. The gathering may include confession and forgiveness, song, liturgy that we sing, such as the Kyrie, and prayer.

Word: The congregational hearing of God's word has its roots in Jewish tradition. This time of hearing God's Word, gives everyone time to listen to the Bible readings, interact in the responsive psalm reading, and to prepare to hear the pastor's sermon, based on the readings. We, again, have liturgy that we sing before the Gospel reading. Within the liturgy of the Word, the traditional order has been Old Testament reading, psalm, New Testament reading, gospel acclamation, Holy Gospel, and sermon. The Word portion of the service ends with the Hymn of the Day, which is the congregation's praise-filled response to all that they have heard.

Meal: The liturgical order of the meal comes from the scriptural accounts of the institution of Christ's supper. Jesus "took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it." The table setting, great thanksgiving, breaking of bread, and communion is how Christ's command to "do this in remembrance of me" is lived out today, joining us with the church from earliest times. Again, there is liturgy that we sing throughout the meal portion of the service.

Sending: The sending is to fill the congregation with the desire to follow Christ's command to take God's grace and love into the world. The sending usually contains a blessing, hymn and sending message. "Go in peace. Serve the Lord." "Thanks be to God!"

For those who grew up Lutheran or in other liturgical churches, you probably know about liturgy, but I know that many of our members came to us from non-liturgical churches. Many churches don't follow a liturgical order of service, and that is fine. It's just that Lutherans prefer the unified order of the liturgy.

Ministries available at St. Philip's

Stephen Ministry - As the holidays are approaching, many people enter a particularly sad time. Having lost a loved one is especially difficult, no matter how long ago it has been. One may be missing family. It is not always possible to get together for the holidays. Remember, St. Philip's has trained Stephen Ministers to walk beside you in whatever you are going through. Let Pastor Patrick or Gigi Mueller know if you would like a Stephen Minister. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, a new training program will be starting in January, 2025, and running through April.. Let Gigi know if interested.

Shepherding Team
The next
Shepherds meeting **Monday,**
February 3rd @
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 will meet on **Sunday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mueller's home.** We are going to read Luke in one sitting ahead of time and discuss. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.



New Supplies needed for Care Kits for the Homeless. As the seasons are changing our winter kits need to be refreshed with new supplies. Please consider signing up below to help replenish supplies. Also, kits can be found under the coat rack in the narthex. Consider picking up one or two to share with homeless persons you may encounter in your travels.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-53363560-homeless>

Ministries available at St. Philip's

Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!! If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **December 12th 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.



Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group Continues to Meet at St. Philip's - The Alzheimer's Assn. of the Delaware Valley is sponsoring a monthly support group for anyone who has a loved one with any form of dementia, including Alzheimer's. Living with or caring for a person with dementia can be extremely challenging, overwhelming and exhausting. The group offers education, support, and the opportunity to connect with others in a similar situation. Free and open to the public, the group will meet on the **second Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on **December 10th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

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

GROCERY CLUB CLOTHING

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

GROCERY CLUB

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 and November 27, 2024

From Habitat Restoration Crew - Phil Duncan

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, 10:00 a.m. to Noon.** 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.



Family Promise
St. Philips Next Host Week: January 19-25

Many thanks to all of you who contributed food, time, and supplies during St. Philips Family Promise host week in November! We fed a total of 35 people which included 11 adults, 23 children, and 1 infant. The families were very appreciative for all the food and attention given to them during the week. Our next host week will be January 19-25. Sign up posters will be in the Narthex with menus listing food you can provide in late December. At this time a Sign-Up Genius will be sent out by email for those who are able to contribute non-perishable items.

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

Blessings to all.

FAMILY PROMISE

The week of: January 19, 2025 to January 25, 2025



YOUR 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE! If you are joining us for Worship, please check the table in the Narthex for your new envelopes! If you are watching Worship online, please simply call the Church Office and arrange for a time to pick them up! Remember, even if you have direct deposit you should pick up your envelopes. There are special offerings.

Every year we provide the members the chance to sign up to dedicate chancel flowers (we used to call them altar flowers when they sat on the altar, but now they are on the shelf in the chancel area) in memory or in honor of loved ones. In order to make it easy for you to sign up for flowers for the 2024 Calendar Year, below is a link to a signup genius form that will allow you to dedicate flowers for the coming year. **The flowers for 2025 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/30E0848A9AE29A57-52711374-flower#/>

From O.W.L.S.



O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, December 10th. 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 **December 10th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** This is our annual Christmas Gathering and lunch will be provided for all attendees. Folks are encouraged to mark your calendar for this great event. We'll have details soon about what our Christmas Theme will be as we learn about one another and our Christmas Traditions and Celebrations!!



**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.

From Women's Retreat and November OWLS - Pastor Amy



*Women's
Retreat*



The Water Is Life Kenya (WILK) team continues to monitor the progress of the well project in Inkisanjani. As it continues, the team is planning a cultural night to provide the congregation an educational opportunity to expand their knowledge about Kenya, as we continue to work on the trip in July 2025. All are welcome! Stay tuned for a sign-up for the Kenyan Cultural Night!

KENYAN CULTURAL NIGHT

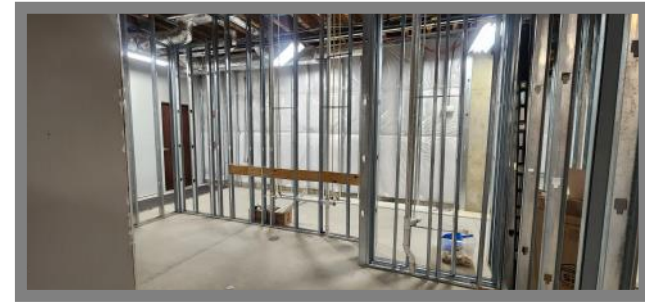
JANUARY 11, 2025

5:00-8:00PM

- TRADITIONAL DINNER
- ACTIVITIES
 - CRAFT
 - SONG/MUSIC
 - SAFARI ACTIVITY
 - DANCE
 - GAME

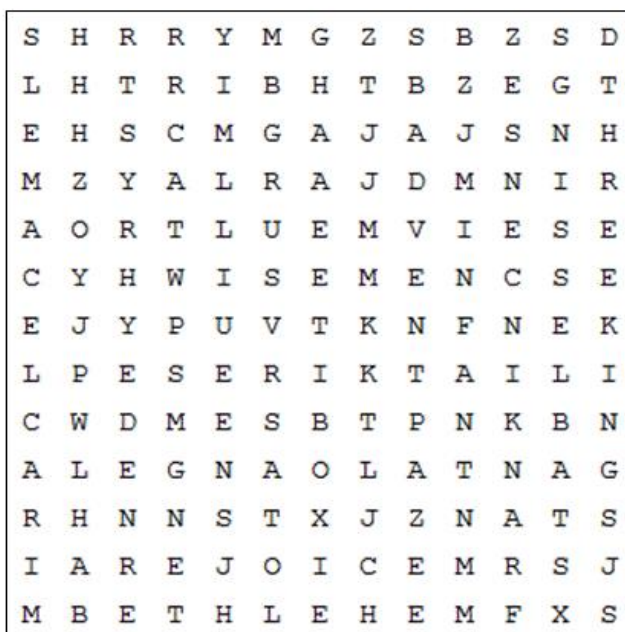


Check Out the Progress!!!





Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN





🕯️ Warm Christmas Blessings
from Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD! 🎄

It's been a complex year, both for our ministry and for the world, yet we trust in God's everlasting faithfulness. I'm privileged to work with bright, engaging, and gifted young adults who prioritize their faith amid the many pressures of college life. They bless, inspire, and encourage me, and I'm grateful for their service and commitment to LCM, as well as for the ways in which we learn and grow together.

I'm happy to be working with Victoria, our new office administrator, who is doing a wonderful job for LCM. After many transitions in office personnel, she's a keeper. ☺️

Receipts from our recent fundraiser totaled over \$7,500, and we're delighted! Now if only the furnace in the Bonhoeffer House hadn't chosen to give out this fall... *sigh* Your continued financial support is most welcome for many reasons, and especially in light of this unanticipated expense.

Thank you from my heart for all the ways that you support LCM at UD, from home-cooked meals to raffle baskets, from invitations to LCM to visit and speak at your church to heartfelt prayers raised on our behalf. Please especially pray for the students this season, as they navigate final projects and exams, as well as for safe, joyful journeys home for Christmas. A special shout-out to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd for hosting our fall fundraiser, as well to those congregations who have made special financial gifts to LCM in 2024. We're so grateful!

Thank you, thank you for all that you do! The practical, financial, and spiritual support of the wider LCM network empowers us to continue providing a nurturing, Christ-centered place for students to grow in faith, leadership, service, outreach, and discipleship. These vibrant young adults are encouraged in their spiritual lives, and they learn better how to embody God's love and grace in their families, relationships, and communities by means of their diverse and considerable gifts and talents. We're all in this together.

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

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



Warm thanks and Christmas blessings from our LCM team! 🙏

Remember Us When You Pray

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

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

Ron Henry, Judi Parsons, John & Barb Williams, Charles & Ruth Bowles, Lois Hardy, Carol Ruckle, Sharon Smith, Louise James, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Dave Frampton, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Elizabeth Stirk, Paul & Barbara Stadelberger, Jeff Stirk, Charlie Boss, Debra Gelesh, Richard Braun, Ellen Lenker, Janette Saxton, Phyllis Bolgiano, Anita Sterling, Donna Daugherty, Yvonne Cilento, Shelly Meador, Danny Mason, Jim Stevens, Mary Kay LaRue and Family

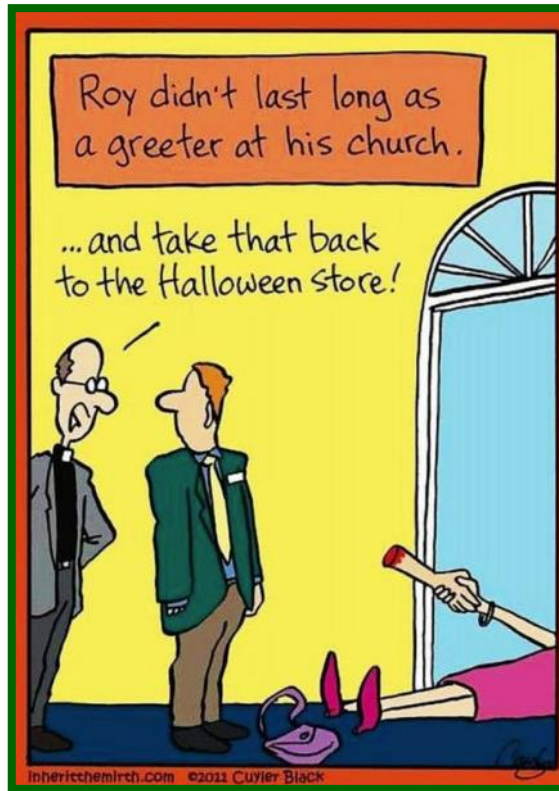
We Pray for our Loved Ones: *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Ruth DiDonato, Family of 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; **Mark Doyle**, friend of Harold and Sharon Holeman

December Birthday's

Linda Burkum	12/1	Blake Anderson	12/19
William Kennedy	12/2	Charles Bowles	12/21
Paul Shovestul	12/2	Kenna Baldwin	12/21
Kathy Salvatelli	12/3	Judy Fawzi	12/22
Pastor Amy Wright	12/7	Virginia Frattarola	12/24
Vivienne Cookson	12/7	Eric Bardenhagen	12/25
Thomas Krapf	12/8	Jeremy Zinnato	12/26
Lila Hall	12/12	Natalie Cutler	12/26
Mary Normington	12/12	Liam Normington	12/28
Danielle Mignogna	12/12	Ginny Lion	12/29
Donna Hokanson	12/14	Marty Budd	12/30
John Normington	12/14	Meghan Newcomer	12/31
Gunnar Imgarten	12/19		

May God Bless You on Your Special Day!





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

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

Who Does What at St. Philip’s

Staff:

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

Officers:

Gerry Butler, President
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

Address Service Requested

Website: www.stphilips.us

Phone: (302) 239-2100

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

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