

The Guidepost



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



MARCH 2025



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



From the Senior Pastor - Pastor Patrick

What's Happening With our Refugee Program?

As you all know we have been supporting the resettlement of refugees from Sudan for almost five years now. If you have not been around that long and don't know the background of at least one of these families, let me summarize . . . It's a tribal thing . . . And things happening on the national scene affect real people. So, for fun, stop reading for a second and Google the name "Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti." You will find news stories from all over the world cataloging how he is the leader of a paramilitary group battling to take over the country. Well, for one of our families that we have resettled here - they grew up knowing that man and because they are of different tribes/families, he has set out to destroy their family, their entire clan.

While we, in the United States, have respect for our military and our soldiers—they fear theirs. Why? Because of stories like this: One day several years ago, Hemedti and his soldiers came into the village of one of our families and in 90 minutes burned the village and killed 109 members of their family along with our friend's 6 month old daughter. Some of their family has been stranded in refugee camps in Jordan and elsewhere for over 10 years. And any family that remains trapped in Sudan is constantly being threatened or beaten.

I share this with you because this is who we helped to resettle. What's more, a team of our people here at St. Philip's had just finished applying to help host another member of our friend's family who is currently in a Jordanian Refugee Camp. They were people just living their lives like you and me, with homes and jobs. That's gone and now they just want a better life for their families.

However, last week we had to break their hearts and let them know that we would not be able to move forward to help them come to the United States because as of January 20th, every single application for asylum and refugee status has been halted. I am personally saddened because it is easy to take an issue as complex as refugee resettlement and immigration and have no face to put to the issue - and please understand . . . I know those systems need reforming. But one thing Jesus worked to do in his ministry was to move us from just considering the *goodness* or *badness* of an "issue" - to move us from staking out a *position* on an "issue" and rather to see the *people* who are impacted when they find themselves in situations where their lives intersect with the "issues." Thus, it's one thing to feel a particular way about immigration and refugees . . . Liberals and conservatives love to ramble with their talking points about it all the time. It's another to see the horror and just forget the call that Jesus gives to us to "love our neighbors as ourselves." As people of faith we must not forget it.

In any case, I would ask you to pray for our leaders on this "issue," but more than that, pray for the families (Real people) whose lives are at risk because of this change - this kind of change of policy is just what warlords and evil people thrive on. Lord have mercy!



From the Associate Pastor - Pastor Amy

Greetings all,

As we step into a new month, I cannot help but see that the weather continues to keep changing: warm to cold, then back to cold and then a little warmer, and the cycle continues! As I have heard many times from many of you, “that’s Delaware!” and I must confess: you are very correct!

I know that amidst the changing weather temperatures, our country and world continues to stun us and make us feel a myriad of warm-to-cold emotions. As we continue to hold those on the margins, those that are hurting and those who are forgotten and abandoned in our prayers; we lean into Jesus and the cross during this upcoming Lenten Season, beginning on Ash Wednesday. A season of “turning” back to God. A season of prayer and reflection. A season that reminds us of the depth of God’s Love - a Love it goes all the way to the cross and back for us. A Love that is for you.

I want to personally invite you to join us, to take some quality time for yourself and your spiritual health, in the many soul-filling (and stomach-filling) church events coming up. Whether it be the Youth Group’s Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo Night on March 1st, the Ash Wednesday service on March 5th, the Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday evenings, Pub Theology on the third Thursday of each month (3/20), the O.W.L.S. presentation and lunch on March 11th with Pr. Dave Mueller and Rabbi Peter Grumbacher and so much more; we would love to see you there!

In the midst of so many ups and downs, our Lord remains constant and thanks be to God for that. And thanks be to God for you all.

In Christ,
Pr. Amy



From the President - Amanda DeWeese

Hello friends of St. Philips Lutheran Church! I am writing this with extreme excitement as I was elected as President at the last Council meeting. Thank you for affording me this opportunity to serve you and the community. It is an honor.

For those who may not be familiar, my family and I attend the late service. I sit in the front row, alongside my mother, Janet, and my two energetic boys, Ben and Luke. You may have seen them whiz past you like little Tasmanian devils (I am working on this behavior). Honestly, I wish I had the energy that they seem to harness 24/7.

I joined St. Philip's back in September 2016 and I recall then being amazed by this same energy that flowed throughout the ministries, conversations, and teachings at St. Philips. I knew St. Philips was a place where I could make an impact through local and international ministries, as well as connect with people who would teach me how to truly understand what our community needs and how to come together to get it done.

I look forward to serving you in this role for the next couple of years. If you ever want to sit down to connect, laugh, cry (or babysit my boys, just kidding) I am here for it. The role of President is not built by one singular person, but rather a role whereby we all continue to harness the energy and commitment to work together as a team with kindness and love. St. Philips is TRULY an inclusive and caring congregation where our mission is to make disciples, praise God, and serve the community.

Proverbs 11:14: Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 3: 5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight all your paths.



From Council - Debbi Miller

As each day passes, my friends, family and strangers share more and more fear and distress over our nation and the changes we are going through. In my own anguish, I turned to Google (why not) to try to find some words of solace and happened upon this Prayer for Our Nation. There were actually two very similar prayers, so I took the liberty of combining and modifying them into what is written below. No matter our own personal view, as Christians, we can all pray that God's will be done.

Heavenly Father, Now, more than ever, our nation is in desperate need of repentance, healing, and God's grace to overcome the hatred, division and immorality that seem to grip our land. In times like these, we are called to stand in the gap, praying fervently for our country, our leaders and our fellow citizens. Let us approach God in humility, asking him to bless our nation, praying for peace and a restoration of righteousness and integrity within our land.

In our prayers for America, let us ask for God's divine wisdom for our leaders, discernment for our lawmakers, and courage for those who defend truth and justice. We pray for peace to overcome division and for love to dissolve hatred. May the Holy Spirit work within the hearts of all Americans, stirring us all toward compassion for each other with unity and a shared pursuit of goodness. We pray that our country turns away from paths of darkness and seeks the light of Christ. May our faith be a beacon of hope and assurance in the midst of challenging times.

As we intercede for America, let us cherish that God is sovereign over all powers and principalities, over every government and authority. He alone can change hearts and transform lives, bring healing where it is needed most. We must pray with confidence, knowing that God hears the cries of His people and is mighty to save. Jesus also calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves, so let us pray earnestly and with compassion for every soul, even those we may see as adversaries. We ask for the transformation of hearts and minds, that the desires of individuals would be aligned with your will.

Father, we ask that You raise up compassionate hearts within us, instilling in us a desire to come to the rescue of others in their times of need. Your word reminds us in Isaiah 1:17 "Learn to do right, seek justice, Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." Give us the courage to stand up for justice and righteousness, using our influence for good and not for evil.

Finally, let us remember the two greatest commandments given by Jesus Christ: to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). As we pray for America, may these commandments guide our hearts, inspiring us to live out our faith with love, grace and hope. We pray for unity among all people, regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs. Help us to bridge divides, promote understanding and foster a spirit of love and compassion. Father, we commit our nation, the United states of America, into Your loving hands. Guide our leaders, inspire our citizens and empower Your Church to be a beacon of light and hope in our nation. We declare that You are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. May Your will be done in our nation and may your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Ash Wednesday and Lent 2025



Wednesday, March 5, 2025

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

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



Wednesday Evenings at St. Philip's:

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

March 12 * March 19 * March 26 * April 2 * April 9

**Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services &
Community Lunches**

Theme is "The Signs of Jesus in the Gospel of John"

Wednesdays at Noon:

**March 12 * March 19
March 26 * April 2 * April 9**

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

**This year hosted by: St. Philip's Lutheran Church
5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808**



Spiritual Lenten Vespers - Stephen Bencoter, Lauren Conrad, Augustine Mercante

LAUREN
CONRAD

AUGUSTINE
MERCANTE

STEPHEN
BENCOTER

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

SPIRITUALS
IN CONCERT

Join us for Soup and Bread at 6:30
followed by a concert at 7:15.

Any monies collected will be donated to
the St. Philips Refugee ministry.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2025

Passion/Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

Holy Communion Worship Service

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 13, 2025

Mission Kids

11:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025

Upper Room Worship Service

With Stripping of the Altar

7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18, 2025

Seven Last Words of Christ

7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Easter Celebration **7:45 a.m.**

Easter Celebration **9:00 a.m.**

Easter Celebration **10:30 a.m.**

*(Easter Breakfast will be served continuously
from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.)*

There will be **no** Christian Education Today



EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



**Let's Fill Our Sanctuary with Easter Lilies
on Easter Morning!**

**If you wish to order Easter Lilies this Year,
please fill out the form below by
Sunday, TBD
and return to the church office or
drop it in the offering plate.
The cost per plant will be \$TBD.**

Please make your check payable to St. Philip's.

Name: _____ **Phone** _____

Number of Lilies @ \$TBD Each _____

Dedication:

In honor of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Or submit form to: <https://forms.gle/Per4h5fhEfEWMDh7>

Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night!



*Spaghetti Dinner +
Bingo Night Fundraiser*

 **Saturday, March 1st, 5-8pm**

TICKETS

Adult 🎀 \$7
Children 🎀 \$5
Families 🎀 \$20

***ALL proceeds benefit our Youth Group's Hurricane Relief Trip to NC this summer!*



Let us eat spaghetti!



YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!



Easter Breakfast!



Plan on joining us!

Our youth will be serving breakfast on Easter morning from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Cost will be \$6.00 for adults

\$4.00 for children

\$15.00 for family

(Tickets will be available soon!)

The Youth are raising money for their trip this summer.



From Youth Fund Raising Event - Pastor Amy

Homemade Quilt Raffle Benefitting Youth Group!! Once again, this year, Diana Longhenry has made a beautiful quilt with her own hands. She has donated the quilt to the youth group to be raffled off at the Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night. All proceeds from the raffle will go toward the youth group and their mission trip this summer. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, contact Diana Longhenry. She'll also be selling them in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. Thank you so much for supporting our youth. And thank you, Diana, for your generous gift!!



Spring Healing Service - Pastor Amy



Spring Healing Service – Spring is the season of new life and new beginnings for the planet as the dark and cold of winter subside and plants and animals (and even people to a degree) come out of hibernation and inactivity. Those themes are the same themes of the healing we seek from God. So, on **Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m.**, we'll gather in the sanctuary for a time of prayer and healing. All are welcome. If you have questions, see Pastor Patrick or Pastor Amy.



From O.W.L.S.



O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, March 11th. 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 **March 11th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** We are excited to announce that our next presentation will be presented by Pr. Dave Mueller and Rabbi Peter Grumbacher as they talk about Christian and Hebrew scriptures. Lunch will be provided. See you there!

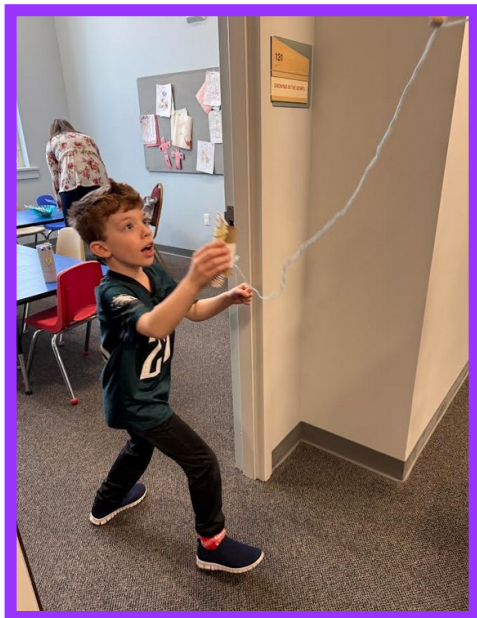


From Kid's Club - Anna Grieder

Join Us for

KID'S CLUB

9:15 a.m. Sunday Mornings



Programming for March is:

MOSES



Mission Kids teamed up with Youth Group in February to make Valentines for homebound members. The younger kids had a great time crafting, creating, and playing with the big kids! We have a busy few months coming up with a fan favorite, Mission Kids Get Messy event where the kids will work together on a craft used to decorate the church. This event takes place on Sunday, March 9th after the 10:30am service.

We also have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 13th which is our biggest event of the year. Lunch will be provided at both events so please sign up in advance!

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!”*

Get excited because **Pub Theology** is this month from 6:30-8:30pm on Thursday, March 20th! It's every 3rd Thursday of the month, and for this month, it will be back at Chuck Lager's (right down from the church)!

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!



A Community Learning Experience for all Ages

Sunday, March 2, 2025

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

- Adults and Youth will share and fellowship
- Kid's Club will meet as usual.
- Come enjoy great food and fellowship on Sunday, March 2nd from 9:15-10:15 a.m. AND participate in the STUMP.THE.PASTORS. - Together in Faith program! You can click on the link below to submit a question:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-NfJlsoZgmIfAj1-BvfWM4Vne48Fs8fuQ9hG1jGe3V5uSPA/viewform>

- There will be a Sign up Poster in the Narthex for food needed.

***The Nursery Will Be Open!**



From Christian Education - Sharon Kittle

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 at 9:15 on Sunday morning.

Together in Faith Breakfast is on Sunday March 2 at 9:15 in the fellowship hall. Enjoy food and fellowship and listen to our pastors answer questions submitted for the STUMP THE PASTOR program.

The **Adult Small Group Bible study** resumes on March 9 and runs through April 13. The topic is *Conflicting Scriptures in the Bible*.

Mission Kids and **Youth Group** continue to gather this month. See separate pages in the Guidepost for details.

Looking ahead: The **Easter Egg Hunt** will take place on April 13.

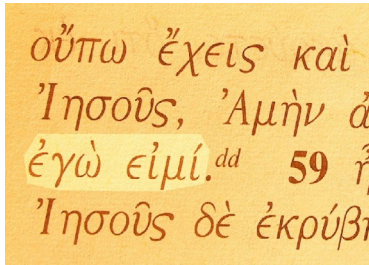
There will be no Christian Ed on Sunday April 20 and Sunday April 27 (Easter break).

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.



Small Groups

Adult Large and Small Group Program for 2025



When Bible Stories Conflict - March/April 2025

Have you ever noticed that sometimes bible stories are different? So, different sometimes that they take place at different times and in different places? Sometimes the same stories are told and they look nothing like one another?

What is true? How do we understand them? This study will help us sort through them.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer - May 2025

For the final two weeks of our program year after Easter, we will return to a large group format for two classes on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We'll explore his life and explore what turned this pastor/theologian into one of the most complex figures in history as he took on the role of a potential assassin: working to assassinate Adolf Hitler as part of the resistance.

Springtime we will study **"When Bible Stories Conflict,"** (again in small groups) which compare and help us sort through Bible Stories that conflict with each other. How do we understand them better?

A large group study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer will wrap up our studies on Sundays, May 4 & 11

Let us know what Small Group you want, Sunday morning at 9:15 am or Tuesday morning at 10 am! If you have questions contact Sharon Price or Pastor Patrick.

Small Group Registration - Cut and place in Offering Plate

Name _____

E-mail _____

Sunday Morning: Women ____ Men ____ Mixed ____

Tuesday Morning ____

Youth Group News! Pastor Amy



UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 2025

- ***March 1 (Saturday) - **Spaghetti Dinner + Bingo Night (5-8pm)**
all youth are expected to arrive at 3:00pm to set-up
this is a HUGE fundraiser for our youth group to help cut costs for the amazing trips we take! We need all hands on deck! It's such a great night that you won't want to miss!
- March 2 - No YG & No Breakfast Club
Come see Pr. Amy & Pr. Patrick for the "Stump the Pastors" Together in Faith (9:15-10:15am)
- March 9 - No YG (We **do** have Breakfast Club)
Confirmation class (1:30-3pm)
- March 13 - **Escape Room** (12-2:15pm)
session at 12:30pm at Axxiom Escape Rooms in Newark
RSVP to secure your spot by Sunday, March 2nd
- March 23 - **Hangry Bear Craft Creamery** (in Kennet Square)
Let's make ice cream together!!!
Instructor-led ice cream making session from 4-6pm.



Annual Meeting 2025! - Pastor Amy



ANNUAL MEETING

**Held on Sunday,
January 26, 2025**





From Mission Kids and Youth Group Valentines Service Project - Pastor Amy & Anna Grieder





From Mission Kids and Youth Group Valentines Service Project - Pastor Amy & Anna Grieder



Valentine Service Project





From Youth Group Sky Zone - Pastor Amy





From Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry

The Daytime Book Group has chosen our books through the spring. They are :

March 18 – Home Front by Kristin Hannah

April 15 – The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

Please join us. We meet at the church in **Room #127 at 12:30 p.m.** You are welcome to bring your lunch

The Young at Heart Group is a group for those 70 years old and up. We will be meeting on **Saturday, March 8, 2025, 1:30-3 p.m.**, at Gigi Mueller's home. New people are always welcome! Please RSVP to Gigi.

It's not too early to start planning our **Women's Fall Retreat** on **Saturday, November 8th, 2025!** Mark your calendars NOW!

Women, Wine, and Whine - Just booked our next wine social gathering for Sunday afternoon, **March 16th, from 3 to 6 p.m.**, at **Acadian Winery in West Grove**. Marty and Company will be performing. All are welcome!

The Women's Evening Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at 7 p.m. 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 **March 14th** we'll be discussing *The End of Drumtime* by Hanna Pylväinen. For **April 14th (NOTE that this is a TUESDAY)** at 5:00 p.m. we will gather at River Rock Restaurant at the Westin by the Chase Center on the Riverfront. We'll enjoy dinner and then go to the New Castle County Reads presentation to hear the author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt speak about her book. **Also for April - Reader's Choice** - Since we already read the NCC Reads book, in April, read a book of your choice. We can talk about them at our May meeting and use this discussion to plan the next books through the fall of 2025. Then for **May 9th** we'll discuss *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Piccoult. On **June 13th** we'll discuss *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Alston. 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!



Ministries available at St. Philip's

There is a lot of pain out there. People are dealing with death and illnesses of loved ones. Depression is real. A **Stephen Minister can walk with you for anything you may be experiencing.** Let Pastor Patrick or Gigi Mueller know if you are ready for a Stephen Minister or have any questions about Stephen Ministry.

Shepherding Team
The next
Shepherds meeting **Monday,**
May 5th @
1 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall.

MINISTRIES

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 **March 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mueller's home.** We will again be reading and discussing a book of the Bible to be determined. 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 **March 13th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in the Social Hall here at church. If you are interested in being a part or learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

Worship Assistants Are Needed!!! In particular we are in need of Assisting Ministers. This is an easy job because the pastor helps you during the entire service. Assisting with communion and the prayers. Let Pastor Patrick or Louise James know if you are interested.

MINISTRIES

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 **March 11th at 1 p.m. in Room #128**. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.



From Grocery Club

Nancy Zinnato

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, March 12, 2025 and March 26, 2025





From Family Promise

Marty Budd and Rebecca Bardenhagen

Family Promise
St. Philips Next Host Week: May 25-31, 2025

Many thanks to all of you who contributed food, time, and supplies during St. Philip's Family Promise host week in January! The families appreciated all the food and attention given to them during the week. Our next host week will be **May 25-31, 2025**. Sign-up posters will be in the Narthex with menus listing food you can provide in early May. 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: May 25, 2025 to May 31, 2025





From Youth Group - Pajamas and Game Night - Pastor Amy, Advisors: Maranda and Mattie

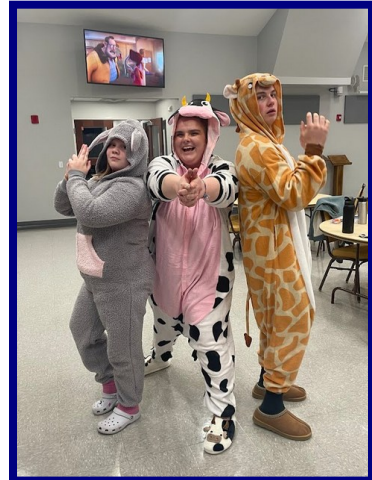
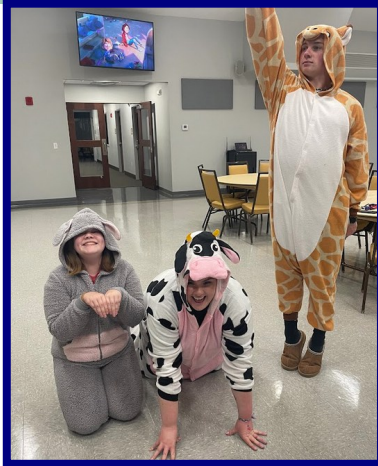


Game Night





From Youth Group - Pajamas and Game Night - Pastor Amy, Advisors: Maranda and Mattie





From Environmental Stewardship - David Porter

For the love of God's creation, and in the wake of federal government decisions to forego care for our environment, I submit to you the following efforts by your Environmental Stewardship Team [EST]. We are doing something here...

FUTURE MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AT 7:00 PM ON:

- **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16,**
- **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, AND**
- **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15.**

Please note that these meeting days have changed from previous messages.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME! COME JOIN US!

SOLAR ENERGY FOR OUR CHURCH BUILDING:

The EST has been advocating for powering our church in more sustainable ways, relying less on fossil fuel sources, and turning toward solar energy sources. For our purposes we will most often refer to renewable and sustainable energy options as our solar options.

A major consideration currently and as our basement renovation and parking lot expansion projects wrap up this year, is whether or not to transition to a solar energy system, whether to include energy storage, and/or whether to change our electricity provider to one that captures and delivers electricity in renewable ways.

We have received a quote for installing a roof mounted solar panel system. We are in consultation with our Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility company from which we can apply for a "Non-Profit Incentive" grant to help pay for a solar system for our church building. We are informed that non-profits are eligible for an equivalent monetary amount of the Federal Government's 30% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) through its "Direct Pay for Tax Exempt Entities" option. In the event the federal ITC is no longer available, nonprofits will not be held accountable for the 30% balance reimbursed to Energize Delaware. With the Non-Profit

Incentive grant we stand to cover up to 70% of the cost of a solar system installation. Add that to the Direct Pay for Tax Exempt Entities and up to 100% of the cost could be covered. Let's hope for this, right? That's Delaware trying to go solar through non-profits.

We are also looking at possibly changing to a third-party power provider that captures, creates, and distributes energy through renewable methods [solar, wind, water, geothermal] or non-fossil-fuel methods. Such companies include but are not limited to [there are many]: CleanSky Energy, Indra Energy, and CMI [from whom we have a current quote].

Continues →



From Environmental Stewardship Team - David Porter

With a third-party electricity provider in place and a solar system covering about 80% of our electricity needs, we could have a complete solar system that provides us with electricity without the need for battery storage.

Stay tuned as we work on the details over these next months.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH [THE GROUNDS]:

We are annually renewing a \$4,500 contract with Redtail Restoration and Land Management LLC. to lead us in restoring our woodlands and wetlands property to a more natural and sustainable state. Currently, amidst the parking lot expansion, we have recovered enough land to have planted about 25 new middle level and canopy trees.

Recently, we received notice from Taryn Davidson, Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for Delaware Forestry Services that her inspection of our tree planting was very positive. We will be reimbursed for some part [perhaps all] of the cost of these trees and be eligible for future grants to plant more. Yay Phil ! Phil and Mary Duncan continue to lead our volunteer efforts in this project with EST and other members working in the forest on the first Saturday and third Wednesday of each month to lop and dig out invasive plants, spread wood chips, plant, water, and care for trees and groundcover and more. Note that management of the rainwater overflow basins has become a big part of these EST members efforts as the new plants directed to us for planting needed additional plantings and care beyond expectations.

This is a lot of physical work so any help will be greatly appreciated!!!!!!!

Near the end of 2024 a line item was established in our church budget for the EST to include the \$4,500 needed for Redtail's services plus \$500 for any additional needs related to our work inside and outside of the church.

Peace to all,
Port [David Porter], Chair of Environmental Stewardship Team.

Current members of the Environmental Stewardship Team: Rebecca and Eric Bardenhagen, Amanda DeWeese, Patrick Downes, Phil Duncan, Mary Duncan, Anne Hamilton, Susan Mack, Mark E. Myers, Donna Porter, Diana Schneider, and David Porter



From the Outreach Committee - Susan Mack



The past few weeks have brought great uncertainty for many nonprofit agencies who rely on federal funding to provide essential services to some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society. Funding freezes and grant cancellations impact community-based agencies trying to keep programs running while continuing to pay their staff and keep the lights on. This includes social service programs supported by the Lutheran church and the ELCA. According to the ELCA website (www.elca.org), “[T]he ELCA and 300 health and human service organizations participate in an alliance known as Lutheran Services in America, which serves more than 6 million people each year in the United States and the Caribbean. That’s one in 50 Americans every year. As part of this alliance and mission, we support more than 285 social ministry organizations affiliated with the ELCA.” **Lutheran Community Services** in Wilmington is part of this alliance. Another Lutheran organization you may be familiar with is **Global Refuge** (f/k/a Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services), which provides services to refugees and immigrants through local partners in numerous states including Maryland and Pennsylvania. (HIAS/Jewish Family Services of Delaware provide the same type of refugee resettlement services here in Delaware.)

Both Lutheran social services and Global Refuge have found themselves unwelcome targets of social media attacks recently. In early February is when I first read about an accusation that Lutheran social services was accepting illegal payments from the federal government and engaging in money laundering. My first reaction was Huh? Is this some kind of joke?? But it turned out that these were real attacks being amplified on social media, to the point where the ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton had to put out a video statement debunking this false claim. If you aren't familiar with what happened, here is an article describing the incident (<https://religionnews.com/2025/02/03/musk-spotlights-federal-funds-for-lutheran-social-services-calls-them-illegal-payments/>) and the video response from Bishop Eaton (<https://youtu.be/LiqzOVdZG1E?si=Vr38A002iIR2NIWI>) A crazy world we live in right now.

Any extra support we might be able to give to the service organizations in our local community, our country, or the wider world would no doubt be much appreciated in these turbulent times, whether it be financial or donations of time or goods. Our own Grocery Club, the food pantries of Lutheran Community Services, Family Promise of Delaware, JFS Delaware, Global Refuge, Lutheran World Relief and many more worthy organizations are out there every day serving those who are in need.

Mark your calendars – Christian Music Festival, Saturday June 21st – A great day of music and community. Would you like to perform or know someone who would enjoy sharing their talents at this year’s festival? All genres are encouraged and welcome. Contact Chuck Cory for more information about the festival



From Altar Guild Committee - Only 6 Slots Left! - Carol Oesterbo

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



From the Renovation Downstairs!!





Lenten Blessings from LCM at UD! ☞

As Lent arrives, we wish you God's peace, grace, courage, and hope as we journey toward the joy of Easter.

The students of Lutheran Campus Ministry gather each week for dinner and worship, as well as for monthly volunteer opportunities with FISH, *Fellowship in Serving the Hungry*. Fun activities since term began have included coffee and conversation together at Brew HaHa! on Main Street, an afternoon of board games with the "Youtherans" (local Lutheran high schoolers) at our chapel, and an ice skating outing. Additional plans are under way for a spring retreat to Ocean City, New Jersey, in early May, along with special end-of-term events to honor our four graduating seniors.

We continue to look for new members for our Directing Committee (governing board), including a new treasurer, as well as for members of our property care team. If you're interested in becoming more involved with Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, please contact me. Thank you!

If you'd like to visit the LCM chapel this spring, we enjoy spending time with members of local congregations and with other LCM supporters. You might consider teaming up with friends to bring a Tuesday dinner for students. For more information, please call our office or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. Our students are always grateful for the home-cooked meals and shared fellowship!

Thank you for continuing to keep this ministry, with and among gifted and inspiring young adults, in your prayers. We especially welcome prayers for Drew, a sophomore who is studying abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, this spring, as well as for God's Holy Spirit to draw new students to our group. Thank you. May our loving God richly bless and guide your Lenten journey!

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



It's a great joy to share fellowship at the LCM chapel!



From Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

Staying Healthy at Hilltop

Health and staying healthy is an overall theme of operations at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center this winter.



Leading the charge are our Pre-School Threes who, according to our Early Childhood Education Coordinator, [Dashaba Fielder](#), used "construction paper, crayons and glue, (to) create their own Healthy Foods Plate. Everyone's [plate](#) included carrots, celery, broccoli and lots of fruit. The children were introduced to some new fruits and vegetables such as avocado, Brussel sprouts and Dragon fruit! The children also enjoyed dancing in their classrooms to exercise music."

Meanwhile, Hilltop Executive Director, Michelle Williams, says she is looking for grant money to keep the ball rolling [around](#) good health. "I submitted a \$10,000 mini grant to Delaware Advancing Healthy Lifestyles Program to pilot healthy lifestyles interventions.... We are looking to create an inclusive ECE (Early Childhood Education) environment that improves children's physical fitness and a culture of healthier eating for generations to come."

It may only be March, but plans are well underway for the 2025 edition of the Hilltop Summer Camp. Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, reports that "as of the end of January, the summer application (is) completed. This year's (camp) theme is 'Summer of STREAM,' [meaning](#): science, technology, reading, engineering art and math." Teresa says the summer planning process includes adding new camp staff members.

One of the many goals of our camp is elimination of summer student learning down time.



To that end, Center Executive Director, Michelle Williams met with the Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Delaware (UWDE), Michelle Taylor, about summer reading outcomes. "Her big push is reading by 3rd grade. She saw an increase in the literacy scores for Hilltop over the summer and wants to collaborate more to help politicians understand the importance of UWDE's early literacy initiative. She also let me know that the summer funding ...

information will come out in March."

Finally, last month we told you about the new food closet at Hilltop, thanks to a \$5,000 donation of nonperishable food items from DOTS Foods. According to [Center](#) Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh, the closet is up and running. "The food pantry officially opens



from 12:00 to 5:00 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The items available for families include peanut butter, crackers, granola bars, cereal, mashed potatoes, chicken, green beans, corn, cookies, and more.

Hilltop staff will engage local churches and community members for continued food donations to make this closet sustainable."

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

Remember Us When You Pray

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

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

Ron Henry, Judi Parsons, John & Barb Williams, Charles & Ruth Bowles, Lois Hardy, 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, Donna Daugherty, Yvonne Cilento, Shelly Meador, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, Marge Davis, David Nevins, John Frink, Erica Miller

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; Sgt. Tyler Harris**, nephew of Susan Mack; **Ruth DiDonato**, family of Linda Burkum; **Emily Ruckle & Tina Davis**, family of Carol Ruckle; **John & Carly Hoeni**, family of Lynn Muller; **Beckie McNelly**, sister of Bob Gobble & Barb Williams; **Lou Cookson**, father & **Beth Cookson**, mother of Nick Cookson; **Dorothy Owens**, sister of Ruth Henry; **Stuart Emerson & Family**, friends of the Swift Family; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simpser; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son of Yvonne Cilento; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott, & **Lee Craig**, friend of The Budds; **Diane Balinski & Debra Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family & **Myron Davis**, brother of Mark & Marge Davis; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **John, Sr. & Anna Longo**, parents of John Longo; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Alistair Black**, grandson of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Carol Henzy**, sister of Beth Molnar; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman; **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, **Craig Florschutz**, husband of Jennifer Florschutz; **Mark Doyle**, friend of Harold and Sharon Holeman; **Mark & Jeanne Favreau**, family of Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pyscher



Happy Birthday from your Church Family!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

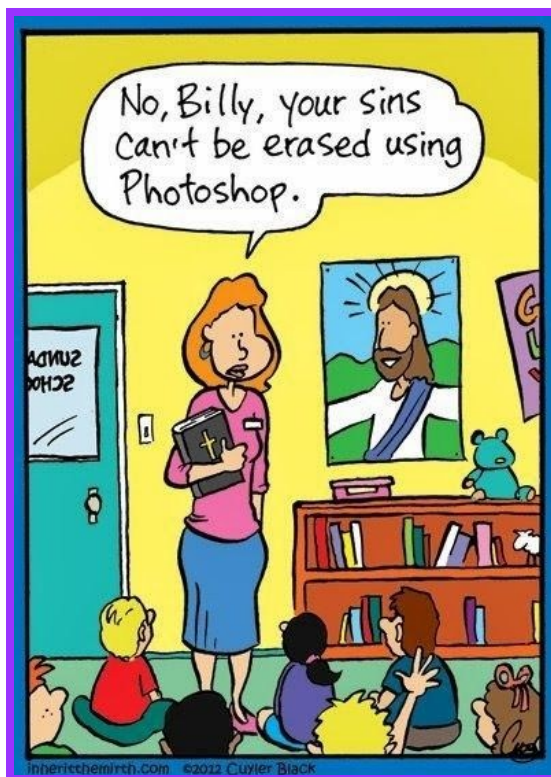
Kim Longo	3/1	Alexis Borrelli	3/16
Donna Blyskal	3/1	Bonnie Sokira	3/17
Nick Cookson	3/2	Elliot Bailey	3/17
Nicholas Florschutz	3/2	Ken Slater	3/18
Rev. Wes Hamlin	3/4	Les Butler	3/21
Matthew Shidner	3/4	Faith Simpers	3/21
Louise James	3/6	Tanner Viering	3/22
Kyle Opderbeck	3/7	Steve Litterst	3/22
David King	3/8	Terace Mignogna	3/23
Shannon Rosen	3/8	Jeffrey Armstrong	3/24
Michael Pushkarewicz	3/9	Mary Jane Pierce	3/25
Karsten Bardenhagen	3/10	Rebecca Bardenhagen	3/25
Allyson Myers	3/11	Mark Davis	3/26
Dave Thompson	3/11	Ronald Pierce	3/27
Parker Hauser	3/14	Carter Freburger	3/27
Sharon Kittle	3/15	John Swift	3/28
Savannah McDonough	3/15	Cathy Irwin	3/29
Lauren Bailey	3/16	Ingeborg Keith	3/29
Remy David	3/16	Dave Hauser	3/31
Richard Streamer	3/16		

May God Bless You on Your Special Day!



Spring
Forward

Sunday, March 9, 2025



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 Bencoter, CAGO Music Director
Dr. Lauren Conrad, Director of Choir Ministry
Lisa Kalinowski, Office Administrator
.....email: stphilipswilmington@gmail.com

Officers:

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

Council:

Coleman Bye
Donna Daugherty
Tom Gustaitis
Michael Imgarten
Carol Johnson

Council (continues):

David Kenney
Debbi Miller
Dave Porter
Jim Stevens

Committees/Activities:

Altar Guild.....
Christian Education.....
Enviro. Stewardship.....
Fellowship.....
Finance/Audit.....
Grocery Club.....
Habitat Restoration Group
Outreach.....
Prayer Ministry.....
Property.....
.....
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