

THE GUIDEPOST



September 2025 Issue

CHECK OUT!

The Women's
Ministry Section!
So many great
gatherings!

READ MORE ABOUT:

Large Group
Programming!
Voices of Faith

RALLY DAY!

September 7th!
Start off the *new*
programming year
followed by
a picnic!



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

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Best Part of Nalepo Kanan

As you are well aware, last month our team of 23 people went to Kenya to dedicate the well that we funded through Water is Life Kenya. Because of your generosity we have changed the lives of thousands of people in that area of Kenya. On September 7th, you are invited to a special presentation at 9:15 am here at church to hear all the details of what we did there and to hear all about the transformation of that community. However, for me, two things truly touched my heart about what we did there.

The first thing is something we learned when we arrived: All along we had been talking about building the well at Inkinsanjani, Kenya. That was the town's name. But we learned when we arrived that because this was something that they had prayed for for so long, they re-named the town for what God had done for them through us. They renamed the town Nalepo Kanan . . . Nalepo meaning "dripping with water." And Kanan (or Caanan) meaning land of promise. Thus, this was now the "land of promise dripping with water." Incredible, right?

The second thing is reflected in the picture below. When we arrived in Nalepo Kanan, people came out to see us from everywhere - below, Angela, Donna, and Sarah are dancing with the kids of the village. I loved the way, not just the land was transformed, but St. Philip's people were transformed as well . . . Changed by sharing life and joy with the people of the village. This is our hope as people of faith . . . Being changed by God by journeying with Christ into the light of the gospel. God's word does something to us . . . And that is what we all discovered.



From the Associate Pastor - Pastor Amy

Greetings! Hurricane Helene can feel like ancient news (it's been almost a year now) but when you go there, it's still everyday conversation. This article, from *the Monocle*, written in mid-June (a few days after we got back from our Mission Trip), discusses what happened & what is happening after the hurricane. It's a brilliant article I stumbled on entitled, "**After the storm: Asheville's road to [restorative] recovery after Hurricane Helene**". It writes: "From this corner of western North Carolina, the Appalachian Mountains begin their gentle descent towards northeastern Alabama. It's a land of thickly forested hills that turn smoky blue in the twilight, which has long drawn people from all over the US for whom a life lived among nature is an ideal worth pursuing. This is a place where people can live outdoors, be creative and still have access to excellent food, culture and healthcare. But on September 27, 2024, a much less welcome newcomer barreled into town.

Down in the Gulf of Mexico, Tropical Storm Helene was gathering steam. And as it sped toward the Florida coast, whipping up winds of 220 kilometers/hr, within 24 hours meteorologists upgraded its severity from a category-1 storm to a category-4 hurricane. Due to record-hot sea temperatures, Helene was able to hold an extraordinary amount of atmospheric moisture, which it unleashed as torrential rain in places at its peripheries, such as Asheville - a place nestled in the mountains.

Both the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, which converge in Asheville, burst their banks, toppling buildings, uprooting trees and carrying cars miles downstream. The city lost running water and power, and telecommunications were knocked out in much of western North Carolina, leading to an information blackout. Whole communities were destroyed...

And yet, along with the river mud, Helene stirred up that particularly Appalachian spirit of can-do and compassion. Stories of strangers helping strangers are countless."

And that last line really resonated with me in thinking about what we saw & experienced. "Stories of strangers helping strangers are countless." That was why we raised, as a church, over \$12,000 in financial support, & it's why 18 of us went down to be there & lend a hand. To go help to restore what was destroyed & impacted. To make right what was wronged. And I can't help but think: *is that not what Jesus does?* **Looking forward to sharing more during our "Together in Faith" presentation on Sunday, Oct. 26th in Fellowship Hall at 9:15am!**





**St. Philip's Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 7, 2025**



Join us on this Special

Day as We Celebrate

the Return of the Fall

Programs, and

bring to a Close our

Summer Sabbath Time.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

- **8:00 a.m.** - Worship Service with Holy Communion
- **9:15 a.m.** - Large Group Forum
- **9:15 a.m.** - Kid's Club will meet in the Christian Ed Wing
- **9:15 a.m.** - Youth will meet in the Youth Room for the first Breakfast Club
- **10:30 a.m.** - Worship Service with Holy Communion
- **11:45 a.m.** - Annual St. Philip's Picnic Lunch with Fun and Games for Children of All Ages including a Bounce House!!!

Hello Friends – It almost goes without saying, but I will say it anyway. I can't believe summer is almost over! Every year I tell myself that we are going to try to slow down our lives, enjoy the lazy days of summer, and embrace a life consisting of the "no-plan, plan", where the calendar gets put away between the last day and the first day of school. Maybe next year. Especially since this summer was anything but uneventful and I wouldn't change one moment of it.

My husband, two sons, my mother and I joined the group that went to Kenya to visit the dedication of the St. Philip's sponsored well. I know that Pastor Patrick has preached about the experience, and you also may have had conversations with some of the individuals who went and got their take on the experience. I have had the good fortune to speak with some of you as well. Each time I do, I realize that I am still looking for the perfect words to ascribe to the mission trip. It was more than my family and I could have ever imagined. Since we have been home, we regularly look at our camera reel of photos, talking about our favorite moments from the visits with St. Luke's (ie: the boys loved playing, dancing, and singing/ rapping with the children), and recalling our favorite Swahili words that we are striving to catalog as part of our daily vocabulary. There were days that it was uncomfortable to be disconnected from many of our creature comforts (ie: clean tap water...and for my kids Kraft mac and cheese), but surprisingly easy to dive headfirst into a cultural immersion experience that humbled us in so many ways. We were asked to speak to the children about our professions, which we did, but they taught us so much more than we could ever dream to teach them. It was eye opening to understand that access to clean water could change the life and livelihoods of thousands of people. I rarely appreciate the luxury that clean, running water provides. And yet, I use it nearly every waking hour of my day. It is not until it doesn't warm up or there is a pressure issue that I get frustrated by its less than perfect existence. This trip will forever remain a positive force for good in my life.

It was heart breaking to leave, but heart warming to know that we will forever have a connection with St. Luke's and the community of Nalepo Kanan. Well, more than just a connection, but what I expect to be a lifelong relationship. As they say, it takes a village to raise a family. I feel blessed that faith brought our two communities together to answer each other's prayers.

"Beyond Counting"

Scripture:

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'"

— Matthew 18:21 (NIV)

Devotion:

Peter's question feels deeply familiar. It echoes in my mind during moments of repeated frustration—with my coworkers, with my kids, with people who keep falling short. Like Peter, I want a limit. A clear line. A way to make forgiveness feel fair, manageable—even deserved. Seven times sounds generous, doesn't it? That's seven offenses, seven apologies, seven chances. Surely that's enough. But what Peter was really asking—what we so often ask ourselves—is: *How much grace is too much? How far does forgiveness really have to go?* Jesus answers with something radical: *"Not seven times, but seventy times seven."* (v. 22) In other words: stop keeping track. Forgiveness, in the kingdom of God, isn't about math—it's about mercy. It's not a transaction. It's a transformation.

Jesus wasn't telling Peter to ignore the hurt or excuse the sin. He was inviting him to live free from the chains of bitterness. Forgiveness is not about becoming a doormat—it's about breaking the cycle of pain. When we hold on to offense, we end up carrying the burden ourselves. But when we forgive, we release others—and ourselves—into grace.

This is the way God forgives us. Over and over. Every day. When we understand the depth of His mercy toward us, it becomes a little easier to extend that mercy to others—not because they've earned it, but because we've received it.

Prayer:

Lord, help me let go of the need to count offenses. Teach me to forgive not just with my words, but with a heart shaped by Your mercy. Remind me daily of the grace You've shown me, and make me a reflection of that grace in every relationship. Free me from the weight of bitterness, and fill me with the freedom of forgiveness.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



From Finance - Teri Suddard

		St. Philip's Lutheran Church			
		Treasurer's Report by Major Group			
		July of Fiscal Year 2025			
		Responsibility: All			
		Fund: 01 - General			
		July	Year-to-date	Year-to-date	Percent of
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Income					
Group 00		39,731.83	323,725.27	310,975.00	104.10%
	Total Income	39,731.83	323,725.27	310,975.00	104.10%
Expense					
Administration		2,645.70	22,740.20	21,350.07	106.51%
Committees		12,608.67	90,967.72	123,786.88	73.49%
Pastor		11,164.88	78,154.16	79,599.94	98.18%
Staff		17,504.54	121,934.10	122,737.51	99.35%
Utilities		378.56	11,867.95	14,000.00	84.77%
Benevolence		1,458.33	10,208.31	10,208.31	100.00%
	Total Expense	45,760.68	335,872.44	371,682.71	90.37%
	Income Less Expense	-6,028.85	-12,147.17	-60,707.71	

From the Care Kits Crew - Donna Porter

Since November approximately 55 Care Kits have been distributed by members of St. Philip's to those experiencing homelessness or unstable housing. Thank you to all who have either donated items or have passed them on. You are doing something consequential! It is important that individuals who spend much of their time in transition never become invisible to those around them. I have had some thought-provoking interactions sharing a kit and I hope others have found it to be a meaningful experience as well.

It is time to replenish kits for the summer. The following items are needed and may be left in the bin in the Narthex:

- Socks
- Toothbrushes (single wrapped)
- Toothpaste (small size)
- Deodorant (men's)
- Fruit or granola bars (chewy)

- Small bottles of fruit juice
- Bar of soap (small and perfume)
- Sun screen (travel size)
- Chapstick

From Altar Guild - Carol Oesterbo

Greetings from Altar Guild – Fall is just around the corner – and we find ourselves saying farewell to Dolly Frampton & Mark Davis – lifelong members of Altar Guild and Bread Ministry. We will miss them and wish them blessings in the future. We welcome anyone who would be interested in joining our team. We meet four times a year.. ALSO: The Bread Baking Ministry is always open to new members to join the team to bake the bread for Sunday's communion – currently there are 8 bakers and they rotate on the calendar -baking approximately 5 times/year – Both Altar Guild or Bread Baking are a great way to share your time and talent !

Our next meeting will be September 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm – We invite you to come to the meeting, or please give me a call or email me with any questions.
Carol Oesterbo, Altar Guild Chairperson

From Christian Ed - Kids Club 2025-2026 - Anna Grieder

Kids Club 2025-2026



Donut sleep on the dozen disciples!

**Pre-K (4)
to
5th grade**

**Questions?
ask
Anna Grieder**

Sign Up



Here

Mission Kids

Mission Kids had a blast swimming at our July pool party. Many thanks to the DeWeese family for graciously hosting the Mission Kids group!



Join us **Saturday, September 6th from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM** for our annual **Chalk the Walk!** Bring a lunch and come ready to decorate the sidewalks in preparation for Rally Day the following day. Sunday, September 7th join the entire congregation for a luncheon after the 10:30 AM service! There will be plenty of games run by the Youth Group!



On **Friday, October 19th from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM** we will gather at the church for an **Outdoor Movie Night!**



And on **Saturday, November 15th from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM** we will be hosting our annual **Friendsgiving!** Look out for a SignUp Genius to RSVP and to sign up for side dishes and desserts!

2025 ✝️ ✨ Mission Kids ✨ ✝️ 2026 YEARLY PLANNER

AUGUST

Sunday, August 24th-
Backpack Blessing at both
services



SEPTEMBER

Saturday 9/6 11am-12:30pm
Chalk the Walk & Tie Dye
Sunday 9/7 noon -2pm
Rally Sunday
Sunday 9/21 noon 2pm
Tower of Food Ice Cream
Social

OCTOBER

Sunday 10/19 5-8pm
Outdoor Movie Night



NOVEMBER

Saturday, 11/15 4-7pm
Friendsgiving



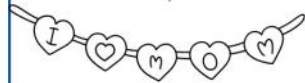
DECEMBER

Friday 12/5 5-9pm
Youth Group Babysitting
Sunday 12/14 9:15-10:15am
Advent Workshop



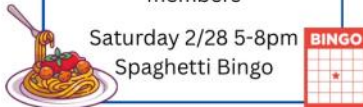
JANUARY

Sunday 1/11 noon-3pm
Mission Moms Lunch
6 Paupers



FEBRUARY

Sunday, 2/15 noon -1pm
Making Valentines with
Youth Group for homebound
members



MARCH

Sunday 3/22
noon-2pm
Easter Egg Hunt



APRIL

Saturday 4/18 4-7pm
Mission Kids Get Messy



MAY

OFF



JUNE

Saturday 6/13
Woodside Creamery



JULY

Date TBD
Annual Pool Party



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!**”*

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! *We meet every 3rd Thursday of each month.

PUB THEOLOGY IS BACK & BETTER THAN EVER!

Join us for the first one of the church year: **Thursday, September 18th, 2025!** We will be meeting at Chuck Lager's from 6:30-8:30 pm! We cannot wait to be back! See you there!!

Cheers!



From O.W.L.S (Older, Wiser, Lutherans) - Pastor Patrick and Pastor Amy



Our OWLS Program Will Resume in October - OWLS (Older, Wiser, Lutheran Seniors) is a monthly gathering of folks here at St. Philip's. We share a meal and have a presenter from various places to teach us something new. Our gatherings are on the second Tuesday of each month during the program year. OWLS will return on October 14th at 11:30 am and the program is still being finalized. See you there!!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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 and during the Christian Ed hour each Sunday. Contact Maryann Shovestul if you have any questions.

Our **Summer of Service** was a great success thanks to the St. Philip's congregation! We collected \$12,823 for the North Carolina Relief effort in June; that was enough money to purchase 15 generators and various other tools. In July we collected School Supplies for Ferris School and the E.A.G.L.E.S. school in the Dominican Republic. We built a large Tower of Food in August to benefit our St. Philip's pantry and the St. Stephen's pantry. Numbers aren't in yet to know who "won" the competition with Limestone Presbyterian but there will be an ice cream social on September 21 to celebrate our efforts to help alleviate hunger. Look for a sign up soon for the ice cream social.

Rally Day is September 7. Sunday morning activities begin including Kid's Club, Breakfast Club, Adult Large Group and Growing in the Gospel. Mission Kids and Youth Group will also begin their fall activities. Check out the pages below for more information about these groups.

A special program will be presented to the adults at 9:15 on Rally Day by the WILK group that traveled to Kenya this summer. Come hear about the trip to the well we dug. The adult forum program **VOICES OF FAITH** will begin on September 14 at 9:15 in the fellowship hall.. Pastor Patrick will lead the first forum titled *The Apostle's Creed and Relevance Today*.

Check out the Lending Library in Room #128 and #129, where you will 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.



Join Us for “Voices of Faith” Large Group Adult Learning

This year we are switching up what we are doing for adult learning. We’re going to be working from a large group format on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Each component will focus on different areas of faith and scripture and will be taught by a different Pastor here at St. Philip’s.

The Tentative Schedule is:

Early Fall - Rev. Patrick Downes - The Apostle’s Creed and Relevance Today

Late Fall - Rev. David Mueller - The Matthean Beatitudes

January/February - Rev. Patrick Downes - Seven Last Words of Christ

March/Early April - Rev. Amy Wright - Topic TBD

Late April/Early May - Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pysher - Prayer

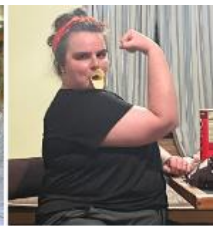
Mission Trip to North Carolina - Pastor Amy



Mission Trip to North Carolina - Pastor Amy



HURRICANE RELIEF



MISSION TRIP VIBES





You are invited to join us at the
2025 Fall Women's Retreat!

It will be on Saturday, November 8th from 8:30 am-1 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Food will be provided. All are welcome to join!
You won't want to miss it!

This year's theme ("**Far More Precious Than Diamonds**") comes from Proverbs 31:10: "A *good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds.*" We will be diving into the lives of some incredible women in the scriptures as we learn more about God and ourselves along the way.

Take some time for yourself to reconnect with God and your community. You can register online now with this link or on the upcoming board in the Narthex:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-57952408-fall>

The **Young At Heart Group** will be meeting **October 18th, 1:30 to 3 p.m.** at Gigi's. Contact Gigi Mueller, if you have any questions.

Women, Wine, and Whine is **Saturday, September 20th** from **1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**, at **Harvest Winery**, 1140 Newark Rd, Toughkenamon, PA. All are welcome!

The **Daytime Book Group** will next meet on **Tuesday, September 16th at 12:30 p.m.** Our book is *The God of the Woods*, by Liz Moore. We will meet at St. Philip's in Room #127.

November 8th is the **Women's Fall Retreat**. A sign-up sheet will be going up soon. "*Far More Precious than Diamonds*" is this year's very powerful topic. We will be discussing: How women were viewed in both testaments. Come for fellowship, food and a special craft. See Page #15 for more details.

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. The next meeting will be **September 12th** and the book for this month is *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. 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!

Women's Ministry

MINISTRIES

Stephen Ministry

St. Philip's Stephen Ministers are here to walk with you through a tough time you may be going through. They are also here to just pray with you, if that is what you need right now. Let Pastor Patrick or Gigi know your needs.

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.

Shepherding Team The next Shepherds meeting is on **Monday, November 3rd @ 1 p.m.** in Room #031

The Shepherding Team Needs New Members to Help!! As you may be aware, St. Philip's has a team of people known as Shepherds who call or write each quarter to check in with members to see if there are any problems or needs - it's a way a congregation as large as ours can help the Pastors keep in touch with everyone. We are in need of one or two people who are willing to send notes or make calls once per quarter to check in with people. If you are willing to help, contact Sally Krapf or one of the Pastors and we can tell you more about how you can help.

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 **September 11th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in Room #031 here at church. If you are interested in learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

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 taking a pause for the summer. A **second group** that meets with Dave and Gigi Mueller will meet on **Sunday, September 21st** at the Mueller's. They will be discussing a portion of Revelation. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group Continues to Meet at St. Philip's - The Alzheimer's Assn. of the Delaware Valley is sponsoring a monthly support group for anyone who has a loved one with any form of dementia, including Alzheimer's. Living with or caring for a person with dementia can be extremely challenging, overwhelming and exhausting. The group offers education, support, and the opportunity to connect with others in a similar situation. Free and open to the public, the group will meet on the **second Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on **September 9th at 1 p.m. in Room #128**. For more info, contact Erica Holmes.

Join the HABITAT RESTORATION CREW! The new fall schedule will be coming out soon! Remember 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.

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, September 10, 2025 and September 24, 2025



PINNERS & KNOTTERS

Pinners and Knotters will meet on **the third Wednesday of each month, starting this September, the 17th, in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM.** We have a number for projects ready to get underway. Consider joining us for this important ministry. No special skill is required and you'll enjoy the company!

Family Promise St. Philip's Next Host Week: September 21-28

Thank you to everyone who donated food, non-perishables, time, and money to help make our May Family Promise host week a success. Our next host week will be September 21-28. Sign up posters are in the Narthex with menus listing food you can provide. On the sign up, we are also requesting money donations for some meal items. This will allow us to purchase the right amount of food closer to the meal date. If you sign up to donate money, you can give your donations to Marty Budd, Rebecca Bardenhagen, or placed in the offering plate earmarked "Family Promise Food Purchase". A Sign-Up Genius link is below for those who are able to contribute non-perishable items.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-58012027-family>

In addition, Family Promise has a wish list of items needed for families when they are in the Family Promise shelter, as well as when they move into their own housing. This list can be found at <https://www.familypromisede.org/wish-list>. If you would like to donate any of the items they are requesting, you can place these items under the Family Promise Sign-Up board and we will make sure they are delivered.

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: September 21, 2025 to September 28, 2025





Your hands and heart are needed as we work together to SERVE our neighbors! Here are some ways YOU can help St Philip's reach out to the community this fall!

Serve those experiencing homelessness

Family Promise – Our next host week is September 21-27. On Wed to Friday that week, we are providing dinner for the families housed at the former Jesus House off Milltown Road. Look for the signups from Marty Budd and Rebecca Bardenhagen for food and monetary donations to provide meals as well as basic household items. Help with serving meals is also appreciated!

Serve those who are hungry

Walktoberfest to Raise Money for Lutheran Community Services on September 20th! See the flyer/ad for this fun event where LCS supporters from area Lutheran churches and elsewhere gather for family fun, food, and a 5k walk/run through the neighborhood adjoining Concordia Lutheran Church. FREE registration at lcsde.org. Select St Philip's as your group during the registration process and join us for the walk/run (most of us walk...). You can share your fundraising page with friends and family and help support the FOOD PROGRAMS of LCS, such as the food banks at LCS and at St Stephen's Lutheran.

Serve local college students a home-cooked meal

We will provide dinner for the students at Lutheran Campus Ministry at Univ of Delaware on Tuesday October 21st. Arrive 5:15-5:30, dinner at 6, cleanup at 7. Meet the students and share a meal. Contact Susan Mack if you can help with the dinner and want to learn more about what is going on with this campus ministry!

Serve those who struggle to make ends meet

Gather and donate Thanksgiving baskets for families in the Hilltop neighborhood in Wilmington and the families served by the Grocery Club here at St. Philip's. Watch for signups in October to donate the fixings for a festive holiday meal.

Gather and donate Christmas gifts for the children at Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center. Signups coming in late November.

continues →

Serve our members who are homebound

Once again we plan to go **Christmas Caroling** to share some Christmas joy with church members who are homebound. **Mark your calendars for Saturday December 20th for 3-6 p.m.!** Caroling, pizza, and cookies. A perfect recipe for a perfect afternoon.

KENYA – WHAT COMES NEXT? If you are interested in planning the future relationship with St. Luke’s School and the community of Inkisanjani, see Sarah Swift or Pastor Patrick. A team is forming now to take the next steps toward the future.

Thanks for all who signed the banner sharing greetings with the Inkisanjani community – see the photo below from the WATER IS LIFE celebration day on July 21st!



From the Environmental Stewardship - Dave Porter

The Woodlands Restoration continues successfully with support from Redtail Land Management and Restoration with progress being made on removing invasive plants, nurturing newly planted trees, covering weeded grounds with wood chips, getting approval for removing invasive species from wetlands areas, and more. I send thanks, honor, and respect to Mary and Phil Duncan for their continued commitment and leadership for this project.

We have had to place the solar panel installation project on hold due to major funding changes from Energize Delaware which has a revised application that does not offer the previous zero cost for non-profit benefit. The federal government has also removed the 30% solar energy rebate through its "BBB." Meetings with CMI Solar will continue in the hopes of preserving this project.

Our next Environmental Stewardship meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 24th, at 7 PM** at the church. Our meeting will be in **Room #127**, and I will contact present members prior to this meeting for a reminder.

From Dinners of Eight - Allyson Myers and Gigi Mueller



"DINNERS OF EIGHT" Returns to St. Philip's this Fall!!

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.

2025 LCS HUNGER WALK/RUN

Support
Local
Food
Pantries



WALKTOBERFEST

Saturday,
September

20th

FREE

5K
REGISTRATION
OPENS AT
9A

OKTOBERFEST
STARTS AT
11:30A



SCAN ME

FREE - 5K WALK/RUN - COLD BEER - MUSIC - FAMILY FRIENDLY - ICE CREAM
TRADITIONAL FOODS - RAFFLE PRIZES - AND MORE!

CONCORDIA : 3003 SILVERSIDE RD : WWW.LCSDE.ORG
LUTHERAN : WILMINGTON, DE 19810 : INFO@LCSDE.ORG
CHURCH :

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
at the University of Delaware

God's Holy Spirit is inviting us to a new school year and fresh beginnings. It's always a joy to reconnect with current students and to meet the new, talented first-year students whom God brings our way. For individual returning students, this past summer included: an engineering service trip to Malawi; travels around Europe (12 different countries!) after a semester of study in Copenhagen; Air Force training in self-defense; summer jobs; time with family and friends; and growing in faith through service, worship, reflection, and community. I love hearing about students' summer experiences and adventures.

Please save the date of **Saturday afternoon, November 1**. Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin has graciously agreed to host our fall fundraiser. We look forward to sharing tasty treats, hearing presentations by gifted students, bidding in a live auction, the fun of raffle drawings, and enjoying the opportunity to gather with our wider LCM community. If you'd like to donate a basket for the raffle or silent auction, please contact us. We hope you can join us on November 1!

We invite your prayers for the Holy Spirit to draw **new students** to our group, for whom LCM can become a safe, encouraging, and nurturing Christian community as they journey through their years at UD. May LCM be a place where students find welcome and fun, as well as a meaningful context for growing in faith, service, and leadership.

If you'd like to visit LCM on a Tuesday evening, we'd love to see you. We enjoy talking with visitors and are very grateful to those who bring dinners to share. Please watch our website (www.lcmde.org) for updates and opportunities, or contact us directly, if you'd like to sign up with a friend (or two!) to bring a meal. We're grateful for your continued support for LCM. Your prayers and contributions make a powerful difference in the lives of inspiring young adults.

We wish you God's abundant blessings, courage, hope, and daily grace! J

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



LCM's Senior Honor Night in May was a heartwarming evening, including laying on of hands and prayer for each graduate! †

Summer Fun and Education at Hilltop

Both the annual summer camp and our Vacation Bible School were huge successes at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center. Center Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh reports that our third annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) ran from August 11th through the 14th and enrollment ran right up to the starting day.

“This year’s VBS topic (was) Serving with the Fruits of the Spirit, connecting the challenges and victories of Joseph with the fruits of the Spirit.” The school ran from 5:30 to 7 each evening and included dinner.

As for the summer camp, Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, said the camp began with a student “pre-assessment in reading.”

“In partnership with United Way, we received four literacy Interns to assist with the one-on-one reading intervention program we used this summer. Campers continued to complete amazing STREAM activities aimed at teaching the scientific method and how science and math concepts are a part of everyday life.”

Among those “everyday life” lessons were the “Recycling Game- The children learned what items are recyclable (ex: glass, plastic, paper/cardboard, metals and non-recyclables) by sorting them into the correct labeled bins provided. Dinosaur Soap Lab - Creating different dinosaur shapes molded from soap all while learning fascinating facts about dinosaurs. Science Specimen Center (Birds)- A hands- on activity that teaches about making observations, recognizing the characteristics of birds, the use of scientific tools and being able to identify major parts of animals.”

Teresa also says nutrition was a hot topic among the campers with assistance from the University of Delaware. “UD Cooperative Extension hosted fun cooking-based activities during the week. Campers learned how to make nutritious snacks and meals. Other fun nutrition based activities included grocery store bingo, and a health food scavenger hunt.”

Finally, this reminder from Bandon, the “Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center will host an inaugural Hilltop Heroes Gala. Board members, Hilltop staff, community members, and more have all been encouraged to gather at the Riverfront Events on Saturday, September 20, 2025. Our organization’s goal is to sell at least 100 tickets to secure funding to go towards the various efforts of community enrichment. This year’s heroes are County Councilman Jea P. Street, Heidi Beck, and Gordon and Fran Fisher.

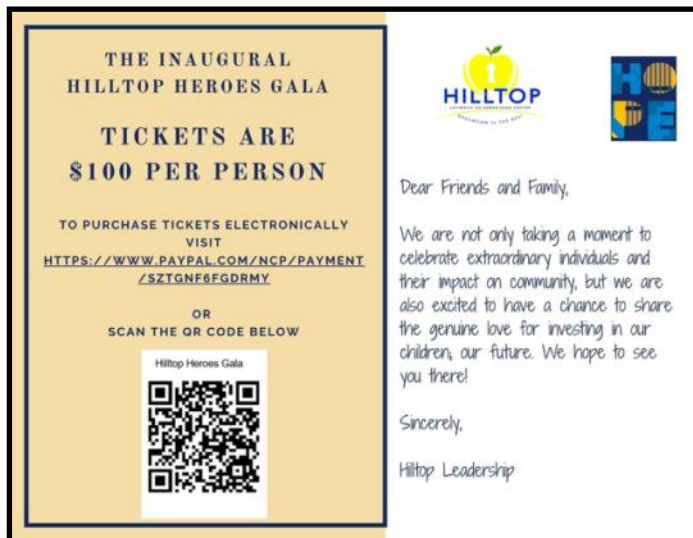
The evening will consist of impactful words from our keynote speaker, and Hilltop alum, Dr. Daman Harris. There will also be various forms of entertainment throughout the evening.” Tickets may be purchased through PayPal via this link:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/SZTGNF6FGDRMY>

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



HILLTOP HEROES BLACK TIE FUNDRAISER: Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center is pleased to invite you to our inaugural **Hilltop Heroes Gala** dinner. This event will take place at Riverfront Events on **Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm**. For the inaugural year, we will be honoring County Councilman Jea P. Street, former executive director and long-time community advocate for education, equity, and equality, Gordon and Fran Fisher, a married couple who founded The Pettit Scholarship, assisting over 30 students in achieving higher education through scholarship funds, and Heidi Beck, a pioneer in Early Childhood Education who has dedicated her life to the strategic development of infants and toddlers, as our Hilltop Heroes. [Event is a black tie dinner gala at the Wilmington Riverfront. \$100 per ticket. Elizabeth Stirk and Tom Krapf are on the Board so have the details.]



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:

John and Barb Williams, Charles and Ruth Bowles, 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, Jeff Stirk, Charlie Boss, Debra Gelesh, Ellen Lenker, Janette Saxton, Phyllis Bolgiano, Yvonne Cilento, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, Mark and Marge Davis, David Nevins, John Frink, Jane Newcomer, Gerry Butler, The Family of Richard Braun

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 Gible & 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 Simperts; **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 & Jeanne Favreau**, family of Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pyscher; **Chuck Stirk**, son of Elizabeth Stirk, **John Stachowski and Family**, Friends of Tom Krapf, **Kevin Meinhardt**, son-in-law of Virginia Frattarola; **Lael Zinnato**, granddaughter of Nancy Zinnato; **George Rice**, son of Vicky Rice

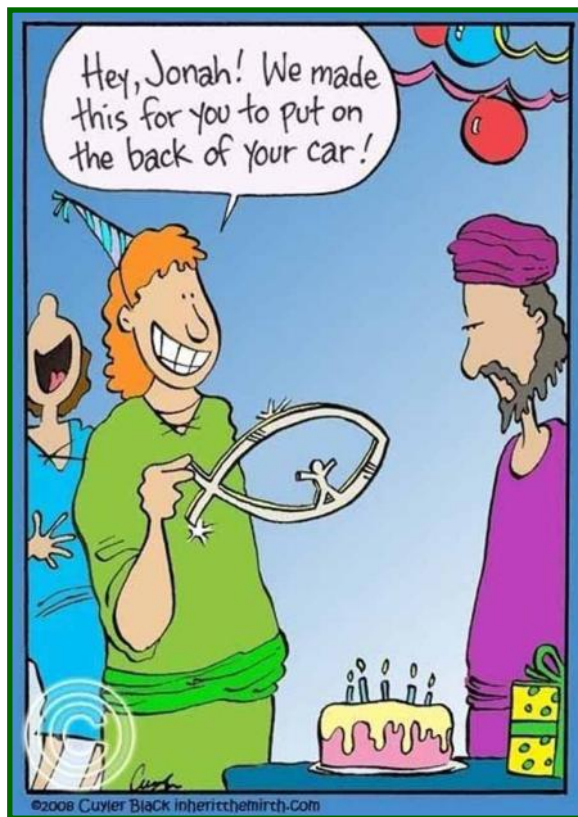
Happy Birthday from your Church Family!



Daniel Mignogna	9/1	John Frink	9/12
Joe Potts	9/1	Rebecca (Becky) Harrington	9/13
Ken Zinnato	9/3	Derek Frisicchio	9/16
Robert Baronio	9/5	Heidi McDonough	9/17
Angela Klemens	9/5	Alexandra Viering	9/20
Jamie Armstrong	9/7	James Suddard	9/21
Ellen Lenker	9/7	Carol Goodman	9/22
Mike Rosen	9/8	Kim Bye	9/24
David Kenney	9/8	Michael Berkheimer	9/26
Samuel Cory	9/9	Chris Hewlett, Jr.	9/26
Anna Grieder	9/10	Shelby Suddard Donnelly	9/27
Douglas Larson, Jr.	9/10	Victoria Rice	9/28
Jonathan Downes	9/12		

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:

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 (continued):

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.....
.....
Stephen Ministry.....
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
Gigi Mueller
Gerry Butler (Interim)

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. Christian Education for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary