

# THE GUIDEPOST



**November 2025 Issue**

## **CHECK OUT!**

Registration for  
the Women's Retreat

See Page 15

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

Cantata and  
Christmas Concert  
Information

On  
Page 25

## **Worship Assistants Needed!**

See our ad on Pages  
17 and 18

Join one of our  
Worship Teams!

## ♥ FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT FUN! MISSION KIDS AND YOUTH GROUP ♥



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

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5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808 \* (302) 239-2100

Website: [www.stphilips.us](http://www.stphilips.us)

## How We Keep Positive In Trying Times

At one of our recent funerals someone asked me how do you keep yourself positive . . . How do you not get down with so many people that you care about struggling. I responded to this person that, “Well, sometimes it’s hard . . . You get worn down.” And I told them that I have a pastor that I talk to every now and then to pray with and to help me keep perspective.

But then I went on to explain to this congregation member that what REALLY helps me is all of you. It’s the Church . . . When we come together in these times and when we are ministering even in the midst of our struggles. Of course we have days when we are wandering through the valley of the shadow . . . But our faith and our witness is that is exactly where God is most visible. And I see God all the time when I am here at St. Philip’s. And that is what keeps me positive . . . It’s the hope that we give to one another as we continue, in faith, to teach, and preach, and worship, and serve, and love one another as we have been loved.

For example, one of the things that gives me great joy at St. Philip’s right now is our children and youth ministry . . . Now it is not that they never have given me joy before . . . But there is just so much energy happening in those ministries. Did you know, for instance, that our children’s Kids’ Club (which runs on Sunday morning) doubled in registration from two years ago to last year. And then this year increased by 50% more (and honestly has continued to welcome new children into their group). This group of kids has gotten so big, we have had to work to move them to a new classroom and we’re planning next year to split the groups into older and younger kids once again. They will be singing on Reformation Sunday and I absolutely cannot wait. Our Mission Kids and Kids’ Club teachers and leaders and parents are doing so many wonderful things with these kids. It is so fun to watch.

Our youth ministry has over 20 active youth in it and with the leadership of Pastor Amy and the advisers, they doing so many amazing and creative things. As I write this, we are on the cusp of another Youth Sunday held on the celebration of the Reformation. And these youth are just such amazing young people. They are leaders and they are servants of God.

But it’s not just them . . . It is all of you . . . When we come together as Church, we are here to support one another through the hard times, but we also with our dedication to our faith and our love of Jesus, we give each other hope and courage. You are what keeps me positive and what keeps me energized. I hope we all do the same thing for one another too.

Greetings all,

I just wanted to take a moment to say a very big (and heart-felt) “THANK YOU”! On November 6th, it will mean that I have had the pleasure and honor to have worked here at St. Philip’s for 2 years. I am so very grateful to work and serve alongside each one of you and, for that, I am so thankful. I am thankful for being able to work and have a blast alongside Patrick, for the incredible and talented staff, church council, teachers, leaders, youth, and congregation! I know it doesn’t seem like a lot of time but it means a lot to me. I am thankful for 2 years and thankful for many more to come!

This congregation is such a special one and I thank God every day that I have the privilege to serve this wonderful congregation. It’s a community of people who truly care and live out the mission of the church: to “make disciples, praise God, and serve the community”. It’s a community filled with great music and energy, joy, comfort, outreach to the neighbor and the needy, and a reverence for God unlike anywhere I have ever seen. This is such a special place and it is a special place because of you.

I am just so filled with appreciation and thanks and I wanted to let you know how grateful I am for this place and for all of you.

With much gratitude for you.



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## From the President - Amanda DeWeese

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Hello Friends of St. Philip's,

I would be remiss if I did not dedicate this month's council update to Gerry Butler, former St. Philip's Council President (and so much more). Gerry passed the gavel to me in February of this year, and she did so with big shoes to fill. She meant so much to me, as a mentor and friend and I know her connection with each of you goes even deeper. It is hard to string together the right words that begin to articulate the loss that we all feel. She had a hand in so much good that came out of St. Philip's and our lives are forever changed having had her walk beside us and now watch us from above.

As we all deal with grief in our own ways, I would like to share a prayer in which I hope you find comfort.

Gracious and Loving God,

We come to You today with hearts full —  
full of gratitude for the gift of Gerry's life among us,  
and full of sorrow that her laughter and wisdom  
are no longer here with us in the same way.

Lord, we thank You for Gerry —  
for the way she led us with humor and grace,  
for the way she could keep a meeting on track  
and still make us laugh along the way.  
We thank You for her deep care for our children and youth —  
for the way she believed in them  
as the future of St. Philip's  
and of the world You are shaping.

We remember how she made herself available to others —  
as a confidant, a mentor, a friend.  
How she listened with her whole heart,  
and offered her wisdom so gently, so kindly.  
She had that spark — that little bit of sass —  
that reminded us that faith and joy belong together.

God, we give You thanks for the steady, loving presence she was among us.  
For the laughter she brought,  
for the guidance she offered,  
and for the love she poured into this congregation.

*(Article continues on the Next Page)*

Help us now to carry her spirit forward —  
to lead with grace,  
to care deeply for one another,  
and to live out our faith with the same courage and kindness she showed every day.

Welcome Gerry into Your eternal embrace, O Lord —  
into the place where peace is complete  
and joy never ends.

Let her rest in Your light,  
and let her memory continue to bless this church she loved so dearly.

In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen

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### **From Council - Tom Gustaitis**

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As a society we are made up of many different people. We all look different, we all act differently, and we all think differently. Imagine how boring life would be if we all were the same, we all looked, acted and thought the same. There would be no innovation. There would be no change. Sure, there would be no conflict, but some conflict can be a good thing. Where would we be if there was no conflict or difference since the beginning of time? We need people who are different than us or have different opinions than ours. Just because they have different thoughts than ours does that make them wrong. No. But they may not be right either, but maybe they have good parts. This is how we grow. We accept them for when they are children of God, we are all children of God. Just like those that have siblings, we don't always get along and we have differences. But we still love one another.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus commanded his followers to “love one another “and to love others as he loved them, establishing a foundational principle of unconditional love that transcends differences.

In Romans 15:7, believers are encouraged to “accept one another, then just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God”. Promoting a community where everyone is welcomed and valued.

When, as a society, we learn to accept all others no matter the differences, we will all live a better life in a better world.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, thank you for accepting us completely, flaws and all. Help us extend the same grace and acceptance you have shown us to others. Let your unconditional love be the foundation of our lives, filling us with peace and security and guiding us through the hard times as well as the easy times and let us not stray too far from our teachings. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## Reminders!

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**Commitment Sunday was Sunday, October 12th.** Our annual stewardship appeal is underway. Stewardship is not about what the church needs to receive, but rather, what we, as people of faith, entrust to God and God's Church in proclaiming the Gospel in the world. Commitment cards and time and talent forms for our members were mailed out in early October. If you have not already turned yours in, please place it in the offering plate or return to the church office in the coming days.

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**Daylight Saving Time** is ending on **Sunday, November 2, 2025.** Don't forget to turn your clocks back. We don't want to lose out on an extra hour of sleep that day.

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## From the Care Kits Ministry - Donna Porter

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Housing needs continue to be a concern for many. Even if you are staying in a shelter or other temporary housing, lack of permanent housing is difficult. Care Kits provide daily necessities such as snacks, water, and hygiene items for individuals in these circumstances. As the temperatures start to drop in the fall, additional challenges are added to the mix. Care Kits are available in the Narthex for anyone who would like to share one with someone in need.

Donations of the following items would be helpful. (Please leave them in the bin under the Narthex coat rack). Thank you!

**Warm socks**

**Hats for winter**

**Gloves**

**Deodorant (men's preferred)**

**Hand warmers**

**Small packs of tissues**

**Toothpaste (travel size)**

**Snack bars (chewable)**

**CARE KIT SUPPLIES**

**From Finance - Teri Suddard**

		St. Philip's Lutheran Church			
		<b>Treasurer's Report by Major Group</b>			
		September of Fiscal Year 2025			
		Responsibility: All			
		<u>Fund: 01 - General</u>			
		September	Year-to-date	Year-to-date	Percent of
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Group 00		35,013.96	403,295.96	399,825.00	100.87%
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>35,013.96</b>	<b>403,295.96</b>	<b>399,825.00</b>	<b>100.87%</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
Administration		2,367.48	26,417.90	27,450.09	96.24%
Committees		11,299.52	115,916.96	159,154.56	72.83%
Pastor		11,226.37	101,100.59	102,342.78	98.79%
Staff		17,074.78	157,426.49	157,805.37	99.76%
Utilities		335.35	14,271.01	18,000.00	79.28%
Benevolence		1,458.33	13,124.97	13,124.97	100.00%
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>43,761.83</b>	<b>428,257.92</b>	<b>477,877.77</b>	<b>89.62%</b>
	<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>-8,747.87</b>	<b>-24,961.96</b>	<b>-78,052.77</b>	

**From Walktoberfest Patricipants - Susan Mark**



**Thank you to all who walked and supported the Walktoberfest to raise money for food programs at Lutheran Community Services.**

St Philip's walkers and donors raised over \$1000 to help LCS exceed its fundraising goal for the event and raise almost \$68,000 in total!

**Youth Group and MissionKids Movie Night and YG Fall Clean-up Registration! - Pastor Amy**



## YG FALL CLEAN UP

➔ NOV. 16TH

As fall rolls in, are there leaves collecting on your lawn?  
 What about leftover weeds from the summer heat?  
 Do you need a little teenage muscle to help move things, winterize rooms, etc?

The Youth Group is having their Clean-Up Day Service Project after worship on Sunday, November 16th from 12:30-3:30 pm. The youth can help with landscaping, taking out the trash, cleaning, or whatever you may need.

Contact Pr. Amy if you'd like some assistance that day.

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

**PUB THEOLOGY IS BACK & BETTER THAN EVER!**

Join us: [Thursday, November 20, 2025!](#) We will be meeting at Chuck Lager's from 6:30-8:30pm! See you there!! All are welcome. Cheers!



**Our Next OWLS Program is in November** - 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 **November 11th at 11:30 am** and our own Stephen Bencoter will be presenting on Lutheran Hymnody. See you there!!

**2025 Mission Kids YEARLY PLANNER 2026**

<b>NOVEMBER</b> Saturday, 11/15 4-7pm Friendsgiving	<b>DECEMBER</b> Friday 12/5 5-9pm Youth Group Babysitting Sunday 12/14 9:15-10:15am Advent Workshop	<b>JANUARY</b> Sunday 1/11 noon-3pm Mission Moms Lunch 6 Paupers
<b>FEBRUARY</b> Sunday, 2/15 noon -1pm Making Valentines with Youth Group for homebound members Saturday 2/28 5-8pm Spaghetti Bingo	<b>MARCH</b> Sunday 3/22 noon-2pm Easter Egg Hunt	<b>APRIL</b> Saturday 4/18 4-7pm Mission Kids Get Messy
<b>MAY</b> OFF	<b>JUNE</b> Saturday 6/13 Woodside Creamery	<b>JULY</b> Date TBD Annual Pool Party

**CHILDREN'S  
Advent  
WORKSHOP**

**ST PHILIP'S  
CHRISTIAN ED WING**

DEC | 14<sup>th</sup> | 9:15AM-10:15AM

**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR ADVENT  
ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, AND A SNACK.  
PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 24TH  
SO WE CAN PLAN FOR ENOUGH SUPPLIES**

INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!

ALL AGES WELCOME

**From Mission Kids - Anna Grieder, Liz Freburger, Amanda DeWeese**

On **November 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM**, we will celebrate Friendsgiving. This is always a favorite event for families to enjoy a meal together. We will provide the rotisserie chickens and we ask that all families plan to bring a side dish or a dessert. A link to the SignUp Genius is below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4BACAF2FA7F94-59633472-mission#/>

Youth Group Babysitting night is scheduled for **December 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. So, come drop your kids off for a night of games, crafts, and sweet treats! This is a fundraiser for the Youth Group for their summer mission trip.

The Advent Workshop is scheduled for **December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM**. This will be held in the Fellowship hall. Join us for fun Advent activities, crafts, and a snack. A sign up link is below!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSen-ksN56cYQTyB3H\\_ZszWGY7gRxreRy3qMrlAYc78M1WnFHg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSen-ksN56cYQTyB3H_ZszWGY7gRxreRy3qMrlAYc78M1WnFHg/viewform)



*Mission Kids*  
**FRIENDSGIVING**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY AND A SIDE DISH  
TO SHARE FOR A FUN FESTIVE  
EVENING WITH FRIENDS!**

**ST PHILIP'S FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**SATURDAY 11/15 4PM-7PM**



**SIGN UP HERE**

# 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 on Sunday morning. Contact Maryann Shovestul if you have questions about the nursery.

Sunday morning groups continue to meet:

- Kid's Club at 9:15 has "Donut Sleep on the Dozen Disciples" as its theme.
- Breakfast Club at 9:15 is discussing "The Dozen Disciples".
- Adult Large Group at 9:15 is exploring Voices of Faith. The second segment, the Matthean Beatitudes, will be led by Pastor Dave Mueller.

Mission Kids and Youth Group are both meeting. Check out separate pages in the Guidepost for details about their November activities.

There will be no programming on Sunday November 30 (Thanksgiving weekend).

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.

## From Summer of Service - EAGLES - Children Receiving School Supplies!!! - Liz Freburger



**Thank  
You!**



**THANKS**



**THANK  
You!**



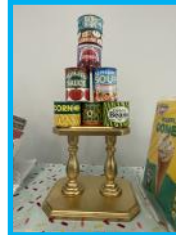
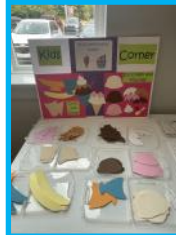
## Join Us for “Voices of Faith” Large Group Adult Learning

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:

- 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 - TBD

### Summer of Service - Tower of Food - Ice Cream Social with Limestone Presbyterian



# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## November 2025

- November 2 – Picnic @ Delcastle Park
  - Bring a snack to share, a lawn chair &/or blanket, & outdoor games you love (soccer ball, football, tennis ball & racket, etc.)
- November 9 – YG Craft Night from 6-8:30pm (tie-blankets + SPLC YG merch/swag decorating)
  - Dinner provided
- November 16 – Fall Clean-Up (12-3:30pm)
  - Bring a lunch/snack to eat before we head out! This is an amazing thing we do for our congregation – help them rake leaves, organize, help with gardens, etc.!
- November 21-23 – Middle/High School Synod Retreat – Middletown, MD at Skycroft Retreat Center
- November 30 – No Youth Group

## December 2025

- December 5 (Friday)– Babysitting Service Project Night (5-9pm)
- December 7 - Christmas Gift Service Project (12-3:30pm)
- December 14 – Advent Workshop (9:15-10:15am) + Church Christmas Decorating + YG Christmas Party (12-3pm)
  - Lunch will be provided! Bring a (up to) \$20 Secret Santa wrapped gift for the party. So fun! You won't want to miss this!
- December 21 – No Youth Group
- December 28 - No Youth Group



The Youth Group's Annual

# BABYSITTING NIGHT

Friday, December 5  
(5-9PM)

**WHY SIGN YOUR KID UP?**

- Attention parents...are you looking for a night when you are able to go Christmas Shopping? Would you like to go out for a quiet night without the kids? Or do you just want a night to rest your ears and nerves?
- Drop your kids off and our YG will have crafts, games, movies, video games, snacks, and more. *Pick-up time: 9PM, sharp!*
- The cost? Well, it is whatever you want to donate. Reserve your spot today by contacting Pastor Amy! Donations are suggested.

**SERVICES OFFERED**

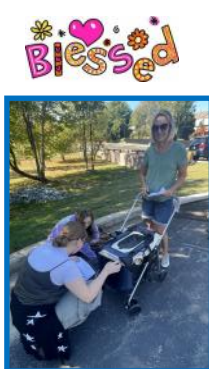
- cookie decorating + baking
- crafts
- games
- movies
- snacks & more!

*All the funds we raise will go toward purchasing Christmas Gifts for the needy children that we have adopted through Hilltop. The more generous your "tip" the more generous the gifts we can buy.*

**RESERVE A SPOT WITH PR. AMY TODAY!**

[pastor.amywright@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.amywright@gmail.com)

Pet Blessing! - Pastor Amy and Youth





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 **TBD, 1:30 to 3 p.m.** at Gigi's. Contact Gigi Mueller, if you have any questions.

The **Next Women, Whine and Wine** will be on **Saturday, December 6, 2025** from 2 to 4 p.m. Location TBD! Any questions, contact Gigi Mueller.

The **Next Daytime Womens Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, November 18th at 12:30 p.m.** The book is *Big Lies in a Small Town*. New people are always welcome. Any questions, please let Gigi know.



The **Womens Fall Retreat** is coming along nicely. Should be a special time for all . We have extended our invitation to a few other churches. The date is, **Saturday, November 8th, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm**. See the sign-up in the Narthex. Let Gigi or Pastor Amy know if you can help with food set-up

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 **November 14** - *The Exiles* by *Christina Baker Kline*. Looking ahead to upcoming months, mark the following evenings on your calendar: **December 12** - The Annual Cookie Exchange and Poetry Reading, **January 9** - *Comfort and Joy* by Kristin Hannah, **February 13** - *The Silent Patient* by by Alex Michaelides, **March 13** - *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah, (Because we LOVE her :-)), **April** - New Castle County Reads Book and Author Talk. 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** -The holiday season is almost upon us. Many people experience loneliness and depression at this time. Stephen Ministers are always available to walk any journey with you. We are also here to pray with you on a Sunday. Many of us are wearing our Stephen Ministry name badges. Just pull us aside. Let Pastor Patrick or Gigi Mueller know if you would like to be helped by this wonderful ministry.

**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 Pastor Amy know if you are interested.

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

**Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!!** If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **November 13th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in Room #031 here at church. If you are interested in being a part or 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** will meet **Sunday, November 2nd at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. A **second group** that meets with Gigi and Dave Mueller will meet **TBD at 6:30 pm** 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 **November 11th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

**Worship and Music Team** has had a lot of changes lately due to members of the team having life changes that has required them to retire from their jobs. If you are interested in helping out with this team which helps plan worship services through the year, we can use your help. You don't need to know anything about worship. Pastor Patrick is currently chairing the team—let him know if you can help.

**Pinners and Knotters** will meet on the **third Wednesday of each month, starting this November 19th, 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!

**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), **Cereal, Canned Vegetables, Toilet Paper, Salt & Pepper, Crackers, Coffee, Tea Bags, Cake Mix/Frosting**. Thank you so much for your generosity!!

### GROCERY CLUB CLOTHING

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

### GROCERY CLUB

**Wednesday, November 12, 2025 and Special Distribution Friday, November 21, 2025**

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### Habitat Restoration Crew - Phil and Mary Duncan

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On **Saturday, Oct. 4**, we planted and watered in 299 plugs, featuring a variety of native grasses and other plants. A lovely Hawthorne tree is the central feature of the circle. Once established, these plants are tolerant of the full hot sun exposure in the circle.

Thanks to the many folks who have worked on the circle garden in past months, and especially to **Dave Thompson, Jane Newcomer, Diana Schneider, Ron Pierce, Mary Duncan**, and yours truly for the final installation on the 4th!! We will continue to water this garden through the late fall in order to help them establish in their new home.

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## From Family Promise - Marty Budd and Rebecca Bardenhagen

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Thank you to everyone who donated food, non-perishables, time, and money to help make our September Family Promise host week a success. Our next host week will be December 7-13. A sign-up poster will be in narthex and a Sign-Up Genius will be sent out by e-mail in mid-November for requests of donations of food and other supplies.

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 give them to Marty Budd or Rebecca Bardenhagen, or email us at the contact information below, and we will make sure they are delivered.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Feel free to contact Rebecca Bardenhagen ([bardenhagens@yahoo.com](mailto:bardenhagens@yahoo.com)) or Marty Budd ([martybudd@verizon.net](mailto:martybudd@verizon.net)) with any questions.

Blessings to all!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FAMILY PROMISE</u></b></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The week of: December 7, 2025 to December 13, 2025</b></p>
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## LCM Fundraiser - Susan Mack

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**Lutheran Campus Ministry Fundraiser, Saturday afternoon Nov 1st!** At UD Lutheran Campus Ministry, we're looking forward to our annual fundraiser, scheduled for **Saturday afternoon, November 1**, to be hosted by Grace Lutheran Church, located at 2033 Graves Road in Hockessin. We hope you'll join us for free food and other festivities, including raffle baskets, auction items, student testimonies, and the leadership of the Rev. Bill Gohl, our bishop, reprising his role as auctioneer. For more information, contact [office@lcmde.org](mailto:office@lcmde.org). (Several St. Philip's members have donated items for a raffle basket organized by Elizabeth Stirk. Thank you all!)

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## Altar Guild - Chancel Flowers - Nancy Bye

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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 2026 Calendar Year, below is a link to a signup genius form that will allow you to dedicate flowers for the coming year. **The flowers for 2026 will be \$60.** 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/30E0848A9AE29A57-58814062-flower>

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## From the Kenyan Ministry Team - a/k/a WILK - Amanda DeWeese

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The Kenyan Ministry team met on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and we saw several new faces who came to the meeting with passion and interest in determining our next steps forward with children at St. Luke's and the community of Nalepo Kanan (formerly Inkisanjani). St. Philip's has provided the community so much with access to water through the well, but we feel our connection with St. Luke's and Nalepo Kanan can grow.

If you have interest in joining the committee and helping us continue to cultivate our relationship and impact, please let Sarah Swift or Pastor Patrick know. **Keep watch for our next scheduled meeting!**





## Outreach Update

**Your hands, heart, and treasure are appreciated as we work together to SERVE our neighbors! Upcoming opportunities to serve:**

**Our Annual Thanksgiving Basket collection** for the great Wilmington community is here. We are making up 90 baskets to donate to Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center in Wilmington and to our own St Philips Grocery Club families. Items can be dropped off at the marked area in the Narthex by Sunday November 16th. Please use the form below to sign up for the items you would like to donate to these wonderful organizations. Many thanks go to Michael Imgarten for donating the turkeys. We need lots of your help for everything else, especially this year. Thank you all for your generosity! Please sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-59645465-2025>

Watch for signups in November for **Christmas gifts for families at Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center.**

Once again we plan to go **Christmas Caroling** to share some Christmas joy with church members who are homebound. **Join us on Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 p.m.** for caroling, pizza, and cookies. A perfect recipe for a perfect afternoon.

**A team has begun meeting to plan** the future relationship with St. Luke's School and the community of Nalepo Kanan in Kenya. See Sarah Swift or Pastor Patrick if you would like to get involved.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Outreach Service Fair on January 11, 2026 at 9 a.m.!** As the first Together in Faith event of the new year, St Philips and the Outreach committee will host a Service Fair. During this time the community ministries we regularly support will provide updates on their work and share volunteer opportunities to become involved.

**Thank you to all who walked and supported the Walktoberfest** to raise money for food programs at Lutheran Community Services. St Philip's walkers and donors raised over \$1000 to help LCS exceed its fundraising goal for the event and raise almost \$68,000 in total!



## “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.





# POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

**Let's Fill Our Sanctuary with  
Poinsettias for Christmas Eve!**

**If you wish to order poinsettias this year,  
please fill out the form below by Sunday, December 14th  
and return to the church office, drop it in the offering plate,  
or use this link: <https://forms.gle/agR893m3GGQNqir77>**

**The cost per plant (red only) will be \$25.00 for 6.5" pots.**

**The plants may be taken home  
after any service on Christmas Eve.**

**Any poinsettias not picked up by  
December 26th will be donated.**

**Please make your check payable to: St. Philip's Lutheran Church.**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_**

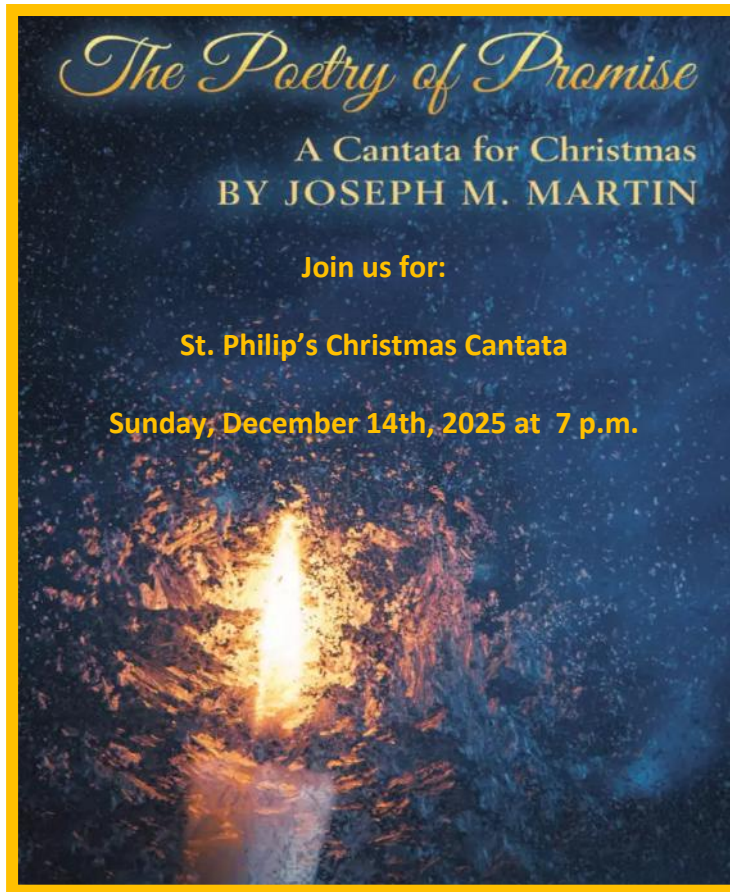
**Number of Poinsettias @ \$25.00 Each \_\_\_\_\_**

**Dedication:**

**In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_**

**In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_**

**To the Glory of God: \_\_\_\_\_**



**Diamond State Concert Band**

Thursday, December 4th, 2025

at 7:00 p.m.



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

Thursday, December 11th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

## *Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware*

**Thank you for blessing us with your support!**

During this season of giving thanks and counting our blessings, the students, staff, and Directing Committee of Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD join me in thanking you for all the ways in which you support our students and our ministry:

*Thank you for keeping our **new students** and returning students in your prayers. The number of visitors for Fall 2025 has now reached 11, including individuals from all four academic classes!*

*What a blessing and joy...and what a rich opportunity for new relationships and for strengthening*

*our LCM community.*

*Thank you for a successful and richly blessed **fundraiser** at Grace Lutheran on Saturday afternoon, November 1! Your attendance, your outpouring of nearly three dozen unique baskets and auction gifts, and your generous financial donations mean so much to us.*

*Bless you for providing tasty, home-cooked **meals** for our students on Tuesday evenings and for joining us for fellowship and conversation at our chapel. It's a great chance for cross-generational connections and occasionally some networking, too.*

*Thank you for your generous **financial gifts**, both congregational and individual, which help to support, sustain, and build this ministry with and among young adults.*

*Thank you for your **faithful partnership** in embodying the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a broken, needy, and often frightened world, which longs for community, reconciliation, hope, and healing. May we continue to shine with Christ's light and reflect God's love. ☒*

Please continue to pray for LCM at UD, especially that all who participate may grow in our lives of service, discipleship, and faith in Jesus. I wish everyone renewed health, safe and memorable travels, Sabbath rest, and joyous and blessed Thanksgiving celebrations! May God's peace and presence accompany us through troubled times; may the Holy Spirit guide and direct us; and may our Lord's grace, hope, and joy surround and sustain all of us as we gather with loved ones and give thanks.

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service †  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD  
302-368-3078; [chaplain@lcmde.org](mailto:chaplain@lcmde.org)*



*The students and I thank you for your continued support!*

## ***Accomplishing our Literacy Goals at Hilltop***

*With the 2025-2026 school year well underway, the teachers and students at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center are concentrating on improving student reading skills.*

*Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, says that many different materials are being used and an expanding number of children are participating.*

*“We have added a 4th group, which consists of children in grades 6th through 8th. We believe 4 groups will allow us to better support and serve the children academically. We are creating a Hilltop store where our children can purchase prizes using ‘Hilltop dollars’ they’ve earned by completing an academic assignment or by demonstrating outstanding behavior. Each child would earn points each day, and those points would be calculated into dollars at the end of the week.”*



*Teresa says the teachers try to make the project fun. “Youth made career posters to hang above their (coat)hooks and monster plates to decorate a wall, as well as a chance to vote on their favorite football team. All in all, it was a good month...”*

*Finally, Center Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh, reports on the Hilltop inaugural Heroes Gala on Saturday, September 20, 2025.*



*“We honored County Councilman (and former long time Hilltop Executive Director) Jea P. Street, (longtime friend of Hilltop) Heidi Beck, and (philanthropists) Gordon and Fran Fisher. The event was held at the Hyatt’s Riverfront Events location, where all who attended enjoyed great speeches, food, and fellowship. Current Executive Director, Dr. Michelle Williams, kept the evening flowing with short but sentimental speeches, tying one section of the evening into another.”*



*According to Brandon, “the 120-plus attendees of the event were a mix of long-time supporters, current staff members, board members, former board members, presenters, Hilltop partners, and members of the surrounding community.” The event raised a profit of nearly \$5,000!*



*Thanks to all who participated and contributed to this gala event.*

*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:***

John and Barb Williams, Charles and Ruth Bowles, Carol Ruckle, Sharon Smith, Louise James, Helga Kissell, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Dave Frampton, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Lynn Pouser, Elizabeth Stirk, Jeff Stirk, Charlie Boss, Ellen Lenker, Phyllis Bolgiano, Yvonne Cilento, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, Mark and Marge Davis, David Nevins, John Frink, Kelly Krapf, Fred Pratola, Trudy Gilgenast, Donna Daugherty, The Family of Bob O'brien

***We Pray for our Loved Ones:*** *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Ruth DiDonato**, family of Linda Burkum; **Emily Ruckle & Tina Davis**, family of Carol Ruckle; **John & Carly Hoeni**, family of Lynn Muller; **Beckie McNelly**, sister of Bob Gibble & Barb Williams; **Lou Cookson**, father & **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, & **Caleb Houtmann**, grandson of Anne Hamilton; **Frank Kulick**, brother of Ruth Bowles; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak; **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-Pyshner; **Chuck Stirk**, son of Elizabeth Stirk, **John Stachowski & Family**, friends of Tom Krapf, **Lael Zinnato**, granddaughter of Nancy Zinnato; **George Rice**, son of Vicky Rice; **Mark Fawzi**, son of Judy Fawzi; **Dawn, Sarah & Casey**, friends of Donna Daugherty; **Ace Castagna**, nephew of Pam Sheffer

## November Birthday's

Colby Stirk	11/1	Jodi Cookson	11/20
Caleb Cutler	11/2	Valerie Nicholas	11/20
Amanda DeWeese	11/3	Reagan Bailey	11/21
Lily Greenley	11/3	Adrienne Basilio	11/21
Benjamin DeWeese	11/5	Lynn Muller	11/21
Phyllis Bolgiano	11/5	Jerry Aunet	11/21
Hilde Crothers	11/7	Bob Wardwell	11/21
Robert Fry, Jr.	11/7	Ronan Budd	11/22
Andrew Peoples	11/7	Veronica Stevens	11/24
Frances Taylor	11/7	Nora Sanderson	11/24
Ruth Bowles	11/8	Kathleen Streamer	11/24
Steve Hardwick	11/9	Anthony deFiore	11/25
Andreas Angiolelli	11/10	Lorraine Moritz	11/25
Teri O'Hara	11/10	Maranda Sheffer	11/25
Maryann Shovestul	11/10	Dana Hauser	11/28
Sarah Myers	11/11	Simera Gudeta	11/28
Ann-Marie Peoples	11/11	Diana Longhenry	11/29
Dylan Florschutz	11/14	Charlie Boss	11/30
Ella King	11/13	Chris O'Brien	11/30
Jim Dickinson	11/15	Brittaney (Christopher) Haga	11/30
Bruce Heinlein	11/19		

May God Bless You on Your Special Day!





William, Sarah and Big Brother Theo Pawley welcomed:  
**Abigail Ruth Pawley** born **July 27, 2025** at 7lb 11oz, at  
Christiana Hospital!



Matt, Kelly and Big Sister Nora Sanderson welcomed:  
**Bethany Grace Sanderson** born **October 5, 2025** at  
8lbs 8oz, 21 inches long. Everyone is doing great!



Matt, Lindsay, Big Sister, Lucy Cory and Chuck and  
Pam Cory Grandparents welcomed:  
**Matthew "Baxter" Cory** born **October 8, 2025** at  
8 lbs. 4 oz, 19.5 inches long. In Pittsburgh, PA



**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  
Pastor Patrick(Interim)

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

5320 Limestone Road

Wilmington, DE 19808

Phone: (302) 239-2100

Website: [www.stphilips.us](http://www.stphilips.us)

Address Service Requested

### ***Sunday Morning Schedule***

8:00 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary  
9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages  
9:15 a.m. Large Group Forum in the Fellowship Hall  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary