

THE GUIDEPOST



December 2025 Issue

CHECK OUT!

Our Christmas Schedule
of Worship & Events

See Page 5 & 6

Revisit the Womens Retreat:

Pictures on
Page 15

Thank you to all who
attended!!!

Outreach Team Articles!

Read about
all they are doing
on Pages 24 & 25



YOU+H
SUNDAY

highlights



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

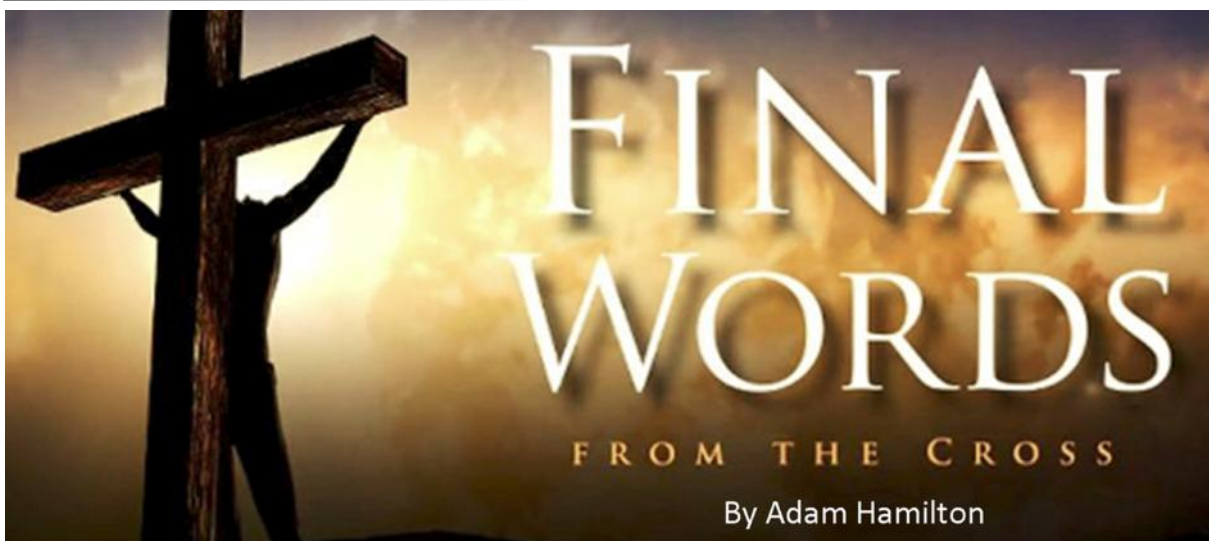
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Website: www.stphilips.us

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

As most of you know, last month, we sent out a letter to update you on the cashflow situation that we have found ourselves in due to the fact that the 18 month building project moved faster than the 3 year capital campaign. Of course, like we said in that letter, the sky is not falling - this is just a short term thing as we continue to grow our membership and as giving continues to be strong month to month. It was merely a reminder to those who hadn't yet fulfilled their 3 year pledge, that, "Hey, don't think because the projects are done, we don't need that giving."

In response, I have to tell you, I've been blown away - all of you have responded as St. Philip's always does: you come through . . . And that helps us continue our outreach projects and everything that we do to proclaim the gospel to one another and the community!! Thank you, thank you, thank you so much!!



The Final Words from the Cross

Large Group Study Begins January 11th

Beginning in January, Pastor Patrick returns to lead a 7 week large group session in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning from January 11th through February 22nd at 9:15 am. Come, relax, meet new people and learn something about the famous words that Jesus spoke from the cross.

Advent Greetings Everyone!

The angels declare to us and remind us that, *“To you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”* **That says it all. That’s the Christmas truth.** Every year, waiting through the season of Advent and in approaching Christmas Eve, I find myself wanting only one thing: I want to be reminded of the angel’s words. I want to be *cradled* in the truth of those words. I want to hold them in the manglers of my heart. I want to be told that the story is true and can be trusted. I want to know the reality of this birth in my life and in our world. I want to feel & see the Glory of the Lord shown around me. I want to feel so loved that I want to sing with the angels and run like the shepherds. I want to take the feeling of Christmas Eve and treasure it and ponder it in my heart.

And I suspect that’s what you want as well. *I think that’s what we all want.* We want to hear the angel’s words again for the very first time. I think that’s why this season is so holy for us.....Because you, me, all of us - we have walked in darkness. Because we have lived in a land of deep darkness. We have all felt insignificant & just ordinary - questioning if God even sees us or hears us at all. Just by looking around at our world, we all ache to hear some good news of great joy, not just for ourselves but for all people. And that is what we find lying in the manger. That the God of the cosmos sees YOU and has come for you. *And his name is Jesus.*

A blessed Advent and Christmas season to you all!

Pr. Amy

May we hear



Dear St. Philip's Friends,

As we come to the close of another year, I find myself deeply grateful for the many ways our congregation has grown and flourished. In 2025, we welcomed new members into our church family, strengthened our Christian education programs, extended Christ's love through outreach both domestically and across the world, and successfully completed major capital projects — including the expansion of our parking lot and the finishing of our basement. These accomplishments reflect not only God's faithfulness, but also the generosity and dedication of this remarkable community.

The Christmas season invites us to pause, reflect, and rejoice. My hope is that each of you finds moments of peace amid the busyness — time to rest, to reconnect with loved ones, and to remember the heart of this holy season: God's gift of Emmanuel, "God with us." As the prophet foretold, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2) May that light bring comfort and joy to you and your families.

Thank you for all the ways you contribute to the life of St. Philip's. It is a blessing to serve alongside you. Wishing you a season filled with hope, warmth, and grace.

From Council - Mary Kay LaRue

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Advent is a time of waiting with hope for the celebration of Christ's birth and his future return. It is a spiritual journey, a time of reflection and penance to prepare our hearts for the wonder of Christmas.

Advent traditions vary from focused prayer, scripture reading, vespers, candle wreaths and embellished calendars. Advent is often regarded as a period for giving and supporting others, with many people taking part in charitable activities, performing acts of kindness, or volunteering throughout the season.

(The Psalm continues on the Next Page ►)

The Advent wreath with its circular shape symbolizes God's infinite love for us – it is never ending, just like the true light of the world, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. As we celebrate the Advent season these four weeks before Christmas, let us remember the beautiful tradition of the lighting of the candles that helps our hearts and minds center on the themes of Advent:

Hope: The first week focuses on the hope for the coming of Messiah.

Peace: The second week focuses on the peace Christ brings and encouraging seeking inner peace and peace with others.

Joy – The third week celebrates the joy of the season and the anticipation of Christ's arrival.

Love – The final week reflects on the love of God shown through Jesus and encourages believers to embody that love in their lives.

***God of hope and promise, be with us throughout this Advent season
and draw us ever closer as we journey together toward the stable and the
birth of your Son, our Savior.***

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Amen

From Altar Guild - Nancy Griffith

2026 Chancel Flower Dedications - Every year we provide 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 sign up 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>



St. Philip's Christmas Schedule

Advent Vespers Service Times

Unfailing Light

Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th and 17th

6:30 p.m. Soup and Bread Dinner

7:00 p.m. Evening Vespers

.....

Christmas Concert

Diamond State Concert Band

Thursday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m.

.....

Christmas Concert

Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band

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

.....

St. Philip's Christmas Cantata

The Poetry of Promise - A Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Cookies and Hot Chocolate Reception to follow

.....

The Longest Night Healing Service

A Winter Solstice Evening Service of Healing

Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m.

.....

Christmas Eve Services

Family Christmas Eve Worship Service

with Holy Communion

6:30 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

with Holy Communion

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

**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.

Longest Night Healing Service

Tuesday, December 16th, 2025
at 6:30 p.m.



Advent Vespers Service: - In this season of peace and joy, join us for a time of rest and peace in the middle of each week. On **Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th and 17th** we'll gather in the fellowship hall at **6:30 p.m.** for Soup and Bread Dinner (**a sign up poster to volunteer to bring soup or bread is in the narthex**), and then at **about 7:00 p.m.** we will move to the sanctuary for the "Unfailing Light" Vespers Service. Come be refreshed by food and fellowship with God and one another.



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: _____

The Poetry of Promise

A Cantata for Christmas
BY JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Join us for:

St. Philip's Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 14th, 2025 at 7 p.m.

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

| 11/5/2025 11:54a | | St. Philip's Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report by Major Group October of Fiscal Year 2025 Responsibility: All <u>Fund: 01 - General</u> | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | October Actual | Year-to-date Actual | Year-to-date Budget | Percent of Budget | |
| Income | | | | | |
| Group 00 | 31,235.78 | 434,424.02 | 444,250.00 | 97.79% | |
| Total Income | 31,235.78 | 434,424.02 | 444,250.00 | 97.79% | |
| Expense | | | | | |
| Administration | 1,319.35 | 27,735.51 | 30,500.10 | 90.94% | |
| Committees | 34,426.57 | 150,093.53 | 176,838.40 | 84.88% | |
| Pastor | 11,226.37 | 112,326.96 | 113,714.20 | 98.78% | |
| Staff | 17,212.56 | 174,639.05 | 175,339.30 | 99.60% | |
| Utilities | 1,104.11 | 15,375.12 | 20,000.00 | 76.88% | |
| Benevolence | 0.00 | 13,124.97 | 14,583.30 | 90.00% | |
| Total Expense | 65,288.96 | 493,295.14 | 530,975.30 | 92.90% | |
| Income Less Expense | -34,053.18 | -58,871.12 | -86,725.30 | | |

Commitment Sunday was Sunday, October 20th. Our annual stewardship appeal is underway. Stewardship is not about what the church needs to receive, but rather, what we, as people of faith, entrust to God and God's Church in proclaiming the Gospel in the world. Commitment cards and time and talent forms for our members were mailed out in early October. If you have not already turned yours in, please place it in the offering plate or return to the church office in the coming days.

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



O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, December 9th. This group is geared towards retirees in the congregation that would like to engage in a time of food, fellowship, and light learning. The next meeting will be held **December 9th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** This is our annual Christmas Gathering and lunch will be provided for all attendees. Folks are encouraged to mark your calendar for this great event. As has become our tradition, this will be a catered event, so we'll provide the lunch. All you need to bring is the name of your favorite Christmas Movie and an explanation of why that is your favorite. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!!

From Mission Kids - Anna Grieder, Liz Freburger, Amanda DeWeese - Friendsgiving!!



Mission Kids
FRIENDSGIVING

This year nearly 40 people joined our Friendsgiving celebration. The kids enjoyed food, family, friends, and lots of fun.



From Youth Group - Pastor Amy



THE YOUTH GROUP'S ANNUAL
BABYSITTING NIGHT
5-9PM
FRIDAY, DEC. 5TH
RESERVE YOUR CHILD'S SPOT TODAY BY EMAILING PR. AMY!

YOUTH GROUP
of St. Philip's Lutheran Church

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, is 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.

The **Advent Workshop** will be held on **December 14 from 9:15-10:15**. If you have questions contact Anna Grieder.

There will be no programming on **December 21, December 28 or January 4** (Christmas holiday)

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:

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



The poster features a dark blue background with white snowflakes and a red border. At the top, the text 'MISSION KIDS' is in large white letters, with 'Winter Events' in a white cursive font below it. Three event details are listed, each accompanied by a penguin illustration: 1. 'DEC 14TH' with a penguin wearing red earmuffs and a scarf, next to a QR code and the text 'Advent Workshop 9:15am-10:15am' and 'Sign up here' with an arrow. 2. 'JAN 11TH' with a penguin wearing orange goggles and a scarf, next to the text 'Moms Lunch Out Six Paupers (Hockessin) Noon'. 3. 'FEB 15TH' with a penguin wearing a blue knit hat, next to the text 'Valentine's Card Making Fellowship Hall after 10:30am service'.

MISSION KIDS

Winter Events

DEC 14TH
Advent Workshop
9:15am-10:15am
Sign up here 

JAN 11TH
Moms Lunch Out
Six Paupers (Hockessin)
Noon

FEB 15TH
Valentine's Card Making
Fellowship Hall
after 10:30am service

YG Fall Events - Pastor Amy



Fall Women's Retreat! - Gigi Mueller



The Next Young at Heart Gathering will be on **Saturday, January 10th** from **1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** at Gigi Mueller's. All are welcome!

The Annual Daytime Book Group's Christmas Potluck is on **Tuesday, December 16th** at **Noon** in the fellowship hall. I will be sending out a signup soon. Please come with book ideas for the coming year.

The Next Women, Whine and Wine will be on **Saturday, December 6, 2025** from **2 to 5 p.m.** at **1723 Winery & Vineyards**, Landenberg, PA. Join us for some holiday cheer! ! Any questions, contact Mary Kay LaRue or Gigi Mueller.



The Fall Women's Retreat was wonderful. We had close to 60 women in attendance with many guests. Thanks to all who attended and helped. And a big shout-out to Pastor Amy for her technical skills. At the retreat, we discussed getting a core group of women (all ages) to start up a Women's Ministry committee. If interested, please let Pastor Amy or Gigi know. We will meet after the holidays!

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 **December 12** - The Annual Cookie Exchange and Poetry Reading, **January 9** - *Comfort and Joy* by Kristin Hannah, **February 13** - *The Silent Patient* 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 holidays are not joyous for everyone. Losses and loneliness are tough times for many people. Let a Stephen Minister walk that journey with you by your side. Let Pastor Patrick or Gigi Mueller know if you would like a Stephen Minister.

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, February 2nd, 2026 @ 1 p.m.** in Room #031

Habitat Restoration Crew - The Crew is always looking for additional members. The only requirements are a heart for the land and a couple of hours on one Saturday or Wednesday each month. We meet in the morning (10:00 a.m. to Noon. currently) on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of each month *throughout the year*, weather permitting. Contact Mary or Phil Duncan for more information.

Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!! If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **December 11th 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 start meeting **during the day**. They will meet at church on the **second Wednesday** of the month from **Noon - 1:30 p.m.** The next gathering date is **January 14th in Room #031**. New people are welcome!! A **second group** that meets with Gigi and Dave Mueller will meet **Sunday, January 11th 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 **December 9th 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 Wednesdays of each month starting December 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.

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, December 10, 2025

From Grocery Club and Hilltop - Nancy Zinnato

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Thanksgiving baskets, and Michael Imgarten for donating 90 turkeys. You have helped families in the St. Philip's Grocery Club and Hilltop have a wonderful Thanksgiving!!



From Family Promise - Marty Budd and Rebecca Bardenhagen

Our next host week will be **December 7-13**. We are partnering with another congregation. Our partner will provide meals for the nights of December 7, 8, and 9 and St. Philip's will provide meals for the nights of **December 10, 11, 12**. A sign-up poster will be in narthex for requests of volunteers and donations of food. You can sign up for other supplies that are needed by checking this link: [Sign Up Genius for Family Promise-December](#)

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 or Marty Budd with any questions. Blessings to all!

| |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FAMILY PROMISE</u></p> |
|---|

| |
|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">The week of: December 7, 2025 to December 13, 2025</p> |
|--|

From the Care Kits Ministry - Donna Porter

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)

From the LCM Fundraiser - Pastor Amy



From YG - Apple Picking - Pastor Amy





Come out for a fun afternoon of
CAROLING to homebound members
Followed by pizza, hot chocolate, and
cookies in the Fellowship Hall

Jingle bells and Santa hats
encouraged!

Saturday, December 20th from
3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Sign up on the Poster in Narthex!!

From Altar Guild - Carol Oesterbo, Altar Guild Chairperson

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

I want to say THANK YOU to all the members of Altar Guild, Bread Baking Ministry, and Banner Detail for all the time and commitment they have made to serving on this committee.

The next Altar Guild Meeting will be **Saturday January 10 , 2026 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Social Hall. We would like to invite you to come out to our meeting – join us and see if Altar Guild may be a committee that you would like to serve on – to share your talents.

Watch for the article in the Annual Report as part of Congregational Meeting!



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

Signups are in the narthex for **CHRISTMAS GIFTS for families at Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center**. Hilltop families appreciate the generosity of area Lutherans including St Philip's who provide clothing and toys for the children served by the Hilltop center in Wilmington.

Our week to help provide food for **FAMILY PROMISE families begins December 7th**. A signup genius for household supplies is now available and a signup poster for specific food items and monetary donations is in the narthex. Marty Budd and Rebecca Bardenhagen can answer any questions you may have! We provided nourishing meals for 40 adults and children during our assigned week in September. Thank you for your continued support for this ministry.

Once again we will go **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** to share some Christmas joy with church members who are homebound. **Join us on Saturday December 20th from 3-6 p.m.** for caroling, pizza, and cookies. A perfect recipe for a perfect afternoon. See the signup poster in the narthex.

Mark your calendars for a SERVICE FAIR on January 11, 2026 at 9 a.m.! The Outreach committee will host a Service Fair between the worship services in the fellowship hall. Each community service organization/ministry will briefly introduce their mission and share opportunities to become involved and volunteer. Then everyone will have the opportunity to learn more at the organizations' tables. See Angela Klemens or Donna Porter for more info.

The KENYA OUTREACH 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. Ideas and volunteers will be needed for a February 7, 2026 Kenya night!

SERVICE + FAIR

The **Outreach Committee** at St. Philip's is hosting a **Service Fair** on **Sunday January 11th, 2026** from **9:15 -10:15 AM** with the purpose of sharing information about:

- the organizations with which St. Philip's currently has working relationships, and
- opportunities for church members to connect and volunteer with these organizations

The organizations will be represented by leaders from St. Philip's and/or the organization. Each organization will give a brief presentation on their organization mission and how you could volunteer. After the presentations there will be opportunity to visit with organization representatives at their individual table. *Light refreshments will be provided

There will not be Large Group Forum on this day!

From the Kenyan Outreach Team - Amanda DeWeese

Kenya Outreach Team Update

The newly formed Kenya Outreach Team met on October 28 to begin exploring opportunities to support our partner community in Kenya, including student sponsorships, technology needs, vocational tools, and future project priorities. Plans are underway for a **Kenya Outreach Night** on **February 7 at 5:00 p.m.**, which will highlight Kenyan culture and our developing partnerships.

Keep an eye out for our next team meeting information!



Joyful Christmas Blessings from Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD!

We're grateful for God's abundant blessings this year! New students continue to visit, and seven of this fall's visitors have become more fully connected to LCM's activities and opportunities, which is wonderful. LCM students enjoyed a fun hike together in White Clay Creek on a dazzling warm Saturday in early November, and this month, they're looking forward to holiday festivities and celebrations, including our Friendsgiving Dinner and Advent Party.

The November fundraiser continues to be a highlight of 2025. We're especially grateful to Grace Lutheran Church, who hosted the event, and to folks from Bethel Lutheran Church, who provided welcome support; along with at least seven other Delaware congregations that were represented by guests and gifts. In the midst of a joyful spirit, thoughtful speakers, and great community interactions, over 80 people attended, and receipts totaled more than \$12,000. We're delighted!

Thank you and bless you for the many ways in which you support LCM at UD, from home-cooked meals to fundraiser raffle baskets, from generous donations to heartfelt prayers raised on our behalf. Please continue to pray for our students this season, as they navigate final projects and exams, as well as for safe, joyful journeys home for Christmas. One of our juniors, Ilsa, will spend spring term studying abroad in France; please pray for travel mercies and special blessings for that experience!

We're so grateful for generous support from congregations. The practical, financial, and spiritual care of the wider LCM network empowers us to continue providing a nurturing, Christ-centered place for students to grow in faith, outreach, and discipleship. These inspiring students are encouraged in their lives of faith and in their emerging vocations. Through shared worship, fun, leadership, and service in LCM, they learn better how to embody God's love and grace in the midst of their communities by means of their diverse gifts and talents. Thank you for standing with us! We're all in this together.

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

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



Warm thanks and Christmas blessings from our LCM team!

From Science to Smoothies



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are receiving a lot of attention this fall at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center.

Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, says one of the goals of the program is to involve girls in science.

“Our program has been awarded a STEM grant from The Delaware Afterschool Network in a targeted effort to introduce girls to science jobs. We will be offering a STEM club to our oldest groups on our Friday Fun Days and including a STEM week for all students monthly.

Teresa notes that literacy exercises are ongoing across all grades.

“Kindergarten and first graders practiced phonics activities focused on identifying and matching beginning and ending sounds. Second and third graders' skills consisted of identifying and distinguishing short vowel sounds in words and recognizing the long final “e” sound. Older youth,” Teresa continues, “read and demonstrated comprehension of non-fiction books, as well as showed understanding of inference skills and cause-and-effect events. All the lessons were designed to aid in helping our children become better readers. The games played were not only educational, but also fun.”

Meanwhile, the Hilltop preschoolers were receiving an early lesson around eating at restaurants through pizzas and smoothies. Center Curriculum Coordinator, Dashaba Fielder, says the fun centered around “Tabby Tiger’s Diner.”

Students were “introduced to vocabulary words such as menu, restaurant, silverware, and even reservations. They may not be able to spell the words, but they know what they mean. They all had the opportunity to pretend to be waiters and waitresses, hosts and hostesses, and even chefs!”



“The children created chef hats using construction paper and decorating materials. During the unit of produce,” Dashaba points out, “they were able to make their very own smoothies! Yum Yum!”

The dramatic play center was turned into a Pizza Parlor. During this time, the children were able to walk into the parlor and order their pizza. Their favorite part was ordering from the menu! We even talked about being sure to give a tip!”

Evenings are busy at Hilltop this fall too, according to Center Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh.

“We continue to offer free haircuts on Monday and Wednesday evenings starting at 5:30, open gym on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings, as well as cooking classes and DJ workshops. Programming is offered in three different cohorts in an effort to allot time and space for the community planning council meetings that are held at the center every second Monday and third Wednesday of each month.”

Finally, we would be amiss if we didn’t mention the Halloween activities at Hilltop. Center Executive Director, Michelle Williams, says activities centered in the gymnasium.

“The gym was decorated and set up for a harvest celebration on October 31st for all of the Hilltop participants. There were pumpkins, leaves, and lots of treats all around. The children and staff were dressed in their costumes and everyone went to each station in the gym and filled their bags with lots of goodies. They took pictures at the end. There were also toothbrushes and toothpaste on hand for everyone! The preschoolers visited the Regency Nursing Home and trick or treated with the residents before they came to the gym.”

The kids **NEEDED** those toothbrushes and toothpaste, big time!

Merry Christmas to all from the Staff, management, and Board of Directors of the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center!

*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, Trudy Gilgenast, Donna Daugherty, Carol Goodman, Family of Fred Pratola

We Pray for our Loved Ones: *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Ruth DiDonato**, family of 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; **The Family of Maddy G.**, friends 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; **Bob Gilmour**, friend of John and Jodi Newcomer



| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Linda Burkum | 12/1 | Gunnar Imgarten | 12/19 |
| William Kennedy | 12/2 | Blake Anderson | 12/19 |
| Paul Shovestul | 12/2 | Charles Bowles | 12/21 |
| Kathy Salvatelli | 12/3 | Kenna Baldwin | 12/21 |
| Pastor Amy Wright | 12/7 | Judy Fawzi | 12/22 |
| Vivienne Cookson | 12/7 | Virginia Frattarola | 12/24 |
| Thomas Krapf | 12/8 | Eric Bardenhagen | 12/25 |
| Lila Hall | 12/12 | Jeremy Zinnato | 12/26 |
| Mary Normington | 12/12 | Natalie Cutler | 12/26 |
| Danielle Mignogna | 12/12 | Liam Normington | 12/28 |
| Lily Armstrong | 12/14 | Ginny Lion | 12/29 |
| Donna Hokanson | 12/14 | Marty Budd | 12/30 |
| John Normington | 12/14 | Meghan Newcomer | 12/31 |
| Michael Klosowski | 12/17 | | |

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
Pastor Patrick(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
9:15 a.m. Large Group Forum in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship Service In Sanctuary