

THE GUIDEPOST



February 2026 Issue

CHECK OUT!

Pics from
our amazing
Cantata!

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LOOK WHAT'S COMING!

Big Youth Group Event
Spaghetti Dinner/
Bingo Night

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MARK YOU CALENDAR!

Kenya Outreach
Night

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ST. PHILIP'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES. PRAISING GOD. SERVING THE COMMUNITY.



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

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

Website: www.stphilips.us

I Had To Change: Two of the Biggest Needs at St. Philip's Right Now!!

I had to change . . . I don't know why I didn't think I was going to have to . . . I mean, after all, I work here . . . I lead here . . . I "know everything" that's going on around here right? (Wink, wink!!!) Well, you might think that, but I came to a couple of realizations recently as our leadership has been dealing with life at St. Philip's now that we have finished the expansion project and now that we have said farewell and have buried . . . wait for it . . . 24 of our loved ones in the last five months. THAT'S STAGGERING! And I will tell you I am still grieving each one of them. I have found myself exhausted by the constant loss we have been experiencing, and I know that all of you (especially those who are more closely affected) feel the same way and then some. And I think that's what made me miss what was happening.

The first thing we discovered was that the inflation that we are all dealing with has caught up to St. Philip's—that's why we finished severely "in the red" this year. Our growth (and thus, the increase in giving that went along with that growth) helped us keep ahead of the rising costs we were experiencing. But the inflation has been relentless . . . Combined with cost overruns from the construction project, cuts in federal funding to food we supply to the hungry, etc., we've got some financial need facing us. That led me to the first thing I, personally, had to change here at St. Philip's: I changed my pledge for the first time in 10 years—my giving has always been healthy and I gave to both capital campaigns, but I realized: Why didn't I think my church and the ministry I love needed more of my help over the last 10 years for the regular budget? I called up Mike Berkheimer, the financial secretary, and told him I needed to increase my giving.

The other realization that came to me is that we are in the midst of a transition . . . There are lots of opportunities to serve right now . . . Why? Well, bluntly, many of our members have gotten older . . . That's you, younger generation, that I'm talking to. When I say "younger" . . . I mean, well, lots of us who can. We need to give more of that other treasure we have . . . Time. I did that recently when the church needed to paint classroom 130 so the Kids Club Kids (a program which has grown exponentially over the last 24 months) could move to a larger space. We got a quote of \$500 to paint that. I knew I could do it for \$40 and some of my time. So, on one of my days off, I got in my grubbies, cranked the country music, and painted the room.

My point in sharing this with you is not to say, "look at me." I think you all know I'm not about that. But it is to say, "I'm in this with you." This is such a generous congregation, but we need to step up, again, friends. I love you all and we've got work to do: work that helps us *make disciples, praise God, and serve the community*. I had to change . . . Who's with me?

Greetings all,

I want to invite you to get out your calendars and make sure that **Saturday, February 28th (from 5-8pm)** is blocked off because.....it's our **Youth Group's Annual SPAGHETTI DINNER + BINGO NIGHT!** This is our church's *biggest* fundraiser, and for good reason! All the proceeds from the evening go towards our youth group's summer mission trip to Ohio and for youth group expenses. It's a youth-led night filled with a *massive* amount of spaghetti and meatballs, raffle items, Bingo and prizes, silent auction items, lots of laughs and fun for everyone! Bring a friend. Grab your appetite and come join us! Tickets are available after worship services starting on Sunday, Feb. 1st (they are also available at the door at the time of the event)! That's amore!

Trust me, you WON'T want to miss this! We so appreciate your support!



The poster features a collage of photos on the left showing people at a dinner event. The main text is in a mix of fonts and colors: 'Spaghetti Dinner +' in orange script, 'BINGO Night Fundraiser' in colorful block letters, and 'Saturday, February 28th, 5-8pm' in green and red. The word 'TICKETS' is in large black block letters, with 'Available Sunday, Feb. 1st' below it. Pricing is listed as 'Adult \$7', 'Children \$5', and 'Families \$20', each with a yellow bow icon. At the bottom, there are two plates of spaghetti with meatballs, a fork, and a knife. A green banner at the bottom left says 'You won't want to miss this!'. A red and green striped banner at the bottom left contains the text: '**ALL proceeds benefit our Youth Group's summer Work Camp trip to Ohio!'.

Spaghetti Dinner +
BINGO Night Fundraiser
Saturday, February 28th, 5-8pm

TICKETS
Available Sunday, Feb. 1st

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

You won't want to miss this!

****ALL proceeds benefit our Youth Group's summer Work Camp trip to Ohio!****



A Community Learning Experience for all Ages

Sunday, March 1, 2026

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

- **Adults and Youth will share and fellowship**
- **Kid's Club will meet as usual.**
- **The Bishop is Coming!! Bishop Gohl is coming to St. Philip's to worship with us and will be the speaker for our Together in Faith Breakfast.. Come enjoy food and fellowship with your St. Philip's family. Hear a message from our bishop. If you can provide a breakfast casserole, muffins, donuts, coffee cake or fruit sign up on the poster in the Narthex so we can plan ahead.**

***The Nursery Will Be Open!**

One of the best things we can do to make our everyday lives better is to dream big, bold, and faith-filled dreams. You can dream about what the future holds and about what new things you can accomplish with God's help... keeping in mind that He can do much more than we ever could imagine or dream.

In order to realize a new dream, it is important to look at your attitude. When you change your attitude from pessimism to optimism, from fear to faith, you are on the road to seeing your dreams come true.

Anytime you follow a dream that God puts on your heart, you have a part to play in seeing it happen. You'll need to plan. You may need to make sacrifices. You'll need to persevere on days when you feel like quitting. But God will never ask you to do something without giving you the ability to do it.

The good news is when your power seems insufficient, God's power is sufficient. God promises in 2 Corinthians 12:9 *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

Dreaming big dreams is part of our spiritual DNA. It's rooted in hope and fueled by faith. So dare to dream. Dream about where God can take you, what God can teach you, and how high you can go and how many people you can help. Ask God to give you a dream that will not only help your life, but the lives of others. And then, take one step at a time - do what He puts in your heart to do and trust Him to do the rest.

Excerpt taken from Joyce Meyer Ministries *Dare to Dream*. (Joyce Meyer.com)

COUNCIL



O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, February 10th. This group is geared towards retirees in the congregation that would like to engage in a time of food, fellowship, and light learning. The next meeting will be held **February 10th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** We'll be joined by Canine Partners for Life who will be presenting on the work they do providing service animal to those with need. Join us for food, learning, and fellowship!!



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

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

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



Wednesday Evenings at St. Philip's:

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

February 25 * March 4 * March 11 * March 18 * March 25

Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services & Community Lunches

Theme: "The People Jesus Meets"

Wednesdays at Noon:

**February 25 * March 4 * March 11
March 18 * March 18 * March 25**

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

This year hosted by: Limestone Presbyterian Church
3201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS 2026



It may only be January, but Easter is coming! At this time of year we invite all children who are ready to receive Holy Communion to join this year's First Communion Class, in preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 12, 2026 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. These are typically children in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grades and above.

The three week course will be taught by Pastor Patrick and requires the participation of both students and one or both parents. The three course sessions will be held February 8th, 22nd, and March 1st at 12:00 pm. Each session is 1 1/2 hours.

All interested families should fill out the form below, detach it, and return it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate or use the below QR Code. We look forward to sharing in this sacramental journey with you and your child. Please speak with Pastor Patrick if there are any questions.

First Communion Registration Form

Student's Name: _____

Grade in School: _____

Number of Family Members attending the Class: _____

Parents E-mail and Phone: _____



Christmas Cantata!!!

Thank you Lauren, Stephen and Choir!

Pics by Pasotor Patrick



1/5/2026
03:13p

St. Philip's Lutheran Church
Statement of Income & Expense as of December
Level of Detail: Minor, Responsibility: All
Fund: 01 - General

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Income					
Major: Group 00					
Minor: Group 00	542,209	580,893	546,163	526,791	541,798
Major: Group 00	<u>542,209</u>	<u>580,893</u>	<u>546,163</u>	<u>526,791</u>	<u>541,798</u>
Total Income	<u>542,209</u>	<u>580,893</u>	<u>546,163</u>	<u>526,791</u>	<u>541,798</u>
Expense					
Major: Group 00					
Minor: Group 00	0	0	0	0	0
Major: Group 00	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Major: Administration					
Minor: Administration	31,800	36,477	34,488	35,418	28,189
Major: Administration	<u>31,800</u>	<u>36,477</u>	<u>34,488</u>	<u>35,418</u>	<u>28,189</u>
Major: Committees					
Minor: Property	71,551	77,972	40,556	38,829	37,325
Minor: Worship and Music	14,963	14,408	18,819	15,846	8,209
Minor: Christian Education	5,606	3,827	2,457	3,471	1,441
Minor: Altar Guild	5,301	7,255	5,241	6,141	5,558
Minor: Evangelism	0	0	0	0	0
Minor: Hospitality	1,466	3,589	2,166	1,653	247
Minor: Finance/Stewardship	78,882	76,675	75,954	75,858	76,831
Minor: Outreach	6,504	6,314	3,888	3,153	3,121
Minor: Food Pantry	347	750	0	3,588	3,567
Minor: Anti-Racism	0	316	924	847	0
Minor: IT Technology	1,718	0	2,438	0	0
Minor: Environmental Stewardship	5,256	3,501	0	0	0
Major: Committees	<u>191,595</u>	<u>194,606</u>	<u>152,442</u>	<u>149,386</u>	<u>136,299</u>
Major: Pastor					
Minor: Pastor	134,780	130,217	131,925	119,192	113,759
Major: Pastor	<u>134,780</u>	<u>130,217</u>	<u>131,925</u>	<u>119,192</u>	<u>113,759</u>
Major: Staff					
Minor: Staff	211,101	205,819	129,022	187,115	177,182
Major: Staff	<u>211,101</u>	<u>205,819</u>	<u>129,022</u>	<u>187,115</u>	<u>177,182</u>
Major: Utilities					
Minor: Utilities	18,455	18,158	20,146	16,591	18,165
Major: Utilities	<u>18,455</u>	<u>18,158</u>	<u>20,146</u>	<u>16,591</u>	<u>18,165</u>
Major: Benevolence					
Minor: Benevolence	13,333	17,292	17,500	17,500	17,500
Major: Benevolence	<u>13,333</u>	<u>17,292</u>	<u>17,500</u>	<u>17,500</u>	<u>17,500</u>
Total Expense	<u>601,065</u>	<u>602,567</u>	<u>485,523</u>	<u>525,202</u>	<u>491,094</u>
Income Less Expense	<u>-58,856</u>	<u>-21,674</u>	<u>60,640</u>	<u>1,590</u>	<u>50,704</u>



MISSION
Kids

February 15th 11:30am-1pm
Make Valentines for homebound
members with Youth Group
(BYO Lunch)

March 22nd 11:30am-1pm
Annual Easter Egg Hunt
**please note this is NOT on
Palm Sunday this year!!!**
(Lunch provided)

April 18th 4pm-7pm
Mission Kids Get Messy
(Dinner provided)



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.

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

The **Adult Group** continues exploring "Voices of Faith" with a winter video series at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall. From January 18 - February 22 Pastor Patrick will be presenting the **Seven Last Words of Christ**.

Mission Kids and **Youth Group** continue to meet. They will have a joint service project on February 15 when they will make and deliver Valentine's Day cards to members who can not come to worship.

The Bishop is Coming!! There will be a **Together in Faith Breakfast on March 1**. Bishop Gohl is coming to St. Philip's to worship with us and will be the speaker for our Together in Faith Breakfast.. Come enjoy food and fellowship with your St. Philip's family. Hear a message from our bishop. If you can provide a breakfast casserole, muffins, donuts, coffee cake or fruit sign up on the poster in the narthex so we can plan ahead.

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.



KIDS CLUB



ADVENT WORKSHOP 2025

Thank you to our amazing youth group helpers:

Jon, Sarah, Abby, Simera, Raji, Thomas, Kylie, & Aubree

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 22

****Note this is NOT on Palm Sunday this year!****

11:30am-1pm

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Lunch is provided
Please RSVP by
March 8th



The 2025-2026 Adult Large
Group Program

Voices of Faith

Exploring Faith and Scripture Through
the Voices of Different Faith Leaders

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

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

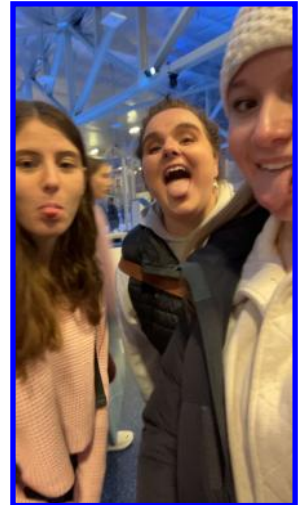
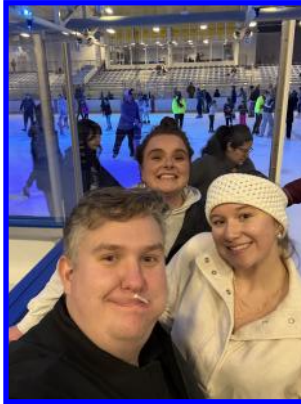
The Remaining Schedule is:

January 18th to February 22nd - Rev. Patrick Downes -
Seven Last Words of Christ

March/Early April - Rev. Amy Wright - The Dead Sea Scrolls

Late April/Early May - TBD

YG Ice Skating and Ice Cream - Pastor Amy



Women's Ministry

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

The next **Daytime Book Group** will be **Tuesday, February 17, 12:30 pm**, in **Room #127**. The book for discussion will be, **THE LOST APOTHECARY**. On March 17, we will be discussing, **A PIECE OF THE WORLD**, and in April, **HAVING OUR SAY**. Please join us.

The Next Women, Whine and Wine will be on **Saturday, February 7, 2026** at **Paradocx Winery in Landenberg** from **2 to 4 p.m.** All are welcome! Any questions, contact Mary Kay LaRue or Gigi Mueller.

Pastor Amy will be helping to form a **Women's Ministry Task Force** – *a team with the vision of generating ideas for Women's programming*. They will be meeting sometime in February. Please let Pastor Amy or Gigi Mueller know if you are interested in becoming a part of this very important ministry.

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 **February 13** - *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides, **March 13** - *First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray (This is also the New Castle County Reads book, so we will have a limited number of these books available for free. The group wanted a night to discuss the book and not just attend the author talk.) **Wednesday, April 8** - New Castle County Reads Evening with the Author event for *First Ladies* at 7:00 p.m. at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. We usually have dinner before the talk at 5:00 PM. This evening takes the place of the regular 2nd Friday gathering of our group. There will NOT be a meeting on April 10th. Liz Stirk is coordinating the dinner. **May 8** - *The Great Alone* by Kritin Hannah (NOTE: This book is a bit longer than the books that we typically read - 576 pages, so plan ahead! You'll have two months to read this book.), **June 12** - *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel. 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!

PUB THEOLOGY

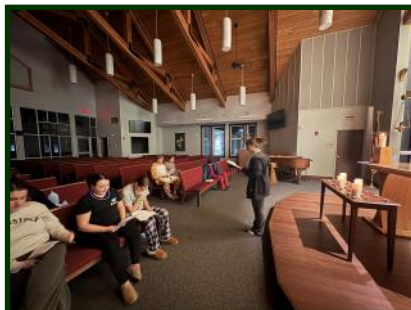
Martin Luther once said: *“Whoever drinks beer, they are quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink **beer!**”*

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. Come join us at Pub Theology! You won't regret it.

Join us: **Thursday, February 19, 2026!** We will be meeting at Chuck Lager's from 6:30-8:30pm! See you there!! All are welcome. Cheers!



From YG Lock-in - Midnight Worship - Pastor Amy



MINISTRIES

St Philips is so fortunate to now have 12 trained Stephen MinistersDo you have the post -holiday doldrums? Are you missing a loved one? Are you feeling in need of someone to talk to?

A Stephen Minister can be there for you. Let Pastor Patrick or Gigi Mueller know.

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. We are in need of a couple new Shepherds. Contact Sally Krapf, if you are interested!

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 **February 12th 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** meets at church on the **second Wednesday** of the month from **Noon - 1:30 p.m.** The next gathering date is **February 11th in Room #031.** New people are welcome!! Contact Sharon Kittle. A **second group** is meeting Sundays after church. **The first meeting will be February 15th after the late service, at Dave and Gigi Mueller's home.** Bring your lunch. Our first discussion will be on *Renewal of our Understanding of Prayer according to Scripture.* Discussion will begin around **12:15 p.m.** New people are welcome and encouraged to join us. Any questions, contact Pastor Dave or Gigi Mueller.

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 **February 10th 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 meet on the **third Wednesdays of each month.** The next meeting is **February 18th 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, February 11, 2026 and February 25, 2026

PET FOOD DONATIONS

We are asking for pet food donations for the individuals and families in Grocery Club. It can be a one-time donation, a monthly donation or however many times you would like to donate.

If you don't want to shop for the food yourself, you can donate a gift card from Petco, PetSmart or Concord Pet and I will shop for you!

As an owner of 20 pets over the last 40 years, taking care of animals is very important to me.

If you are interested in helping, please email me, and I will send you a list of pet food that is needed.

Thank you,
Nancy Zinnato



From Family Promise - Marty Budd and Rebecca Bardenhagen

Thank you to everyone who donated food, non-perishables, time, and money to help make our December Family Promise host week a success. Our next host week will be March 15-22. A sign-up poster will be in the narthex and a Sign-Up Genius will be sent out by e-mail in mid-February for requests for 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 or Marty Budd with any questions. Blessings to all!

FAMILY PROMISE

The week of: **March 15, 2026 to March 21, 2026**



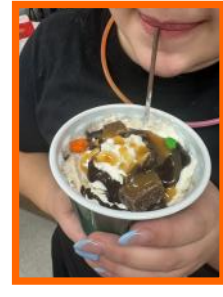
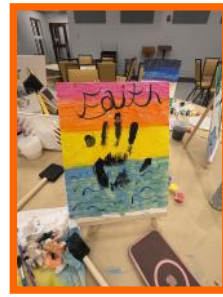
The poster features a dark purple background with gold stars and confetti. The text is white and gold. A QR code is located at the bottom right.

Family Promise
of Northern New Castle County
14th Annual Breakfast
Tuesday, February 10
7:30 - 9:00 AM
Ed Oliver Golf Club
800 N. DuPont Road
Wilmington, DE 19807

For more information or to sign up to be a Table Captain



MOVIE * MILK SHAKES * PAINTING!!!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 2026

- February 1 – YG Soup Soiree + PJ Game Night (5:30-8:30pm)
 - Bring your favorite soup to share – we will be voting on who made the best soup (winner gets a s[*o*]uper prize & bragging rights!)
 - *crackers, drinks & grilled cheese will be provided!
 - Wear your favorite PJ's & let's play games (feel free to bring favorites)
- February 8 – No Youth Group (Superbowl)
- February 15 – Valentine's Day Service Project with Mission Kids + home deliveries (12-3:30pm)
- February 22 – Spaghetti Dinner Prep Night (5-8pm)
 - Let's get prepped, put together Bingo Baskets & decorate the Fellowship Hall for our YG's biggest fundraiser! *It's going to be so great!!*
 - Dinner will be provided (if you can bring \$10 to offset the cost that would be greatly appreciated but not mandatory). *All donations are due this Sunday to put into gift baskets.*
- February 28 - (Saturday) – **Spaghetti Dinner + Bingo Night (6-8pm)**
 - This is our biggest fundraiser!!! It's all hands on deck! ALL Youth are to arrive at 3:00pm to set-up. GET HYPE!!



A promotional poster for a spaghetti dinner event. The background is a dark, textured surface resembling wood or stone, with illustrations of spaghetti, tomato sauce, and a chef's hat. The text is written in a mix of fonts, including cursive and bold sans-serif. The event details are listed in a grid-like format, and the date and time are prominently displayed in the bottom right corner.

Our Youth Group's Annual
Spaghetti Dinner +
BINGO Night!

SPAGHETTI | BINGO
RAFFLE ITEMS | PRIZES
SILENT AUCTIONS | GUARANTEED LAUGHS

**All funds go towards our Youth Group's summer
Work Camp trip to Ohio!*

Tickets on sale: Feb. 1st

Feb. 28
5-8PM

From the Care Kits Ministry - Donna Porter

Over just the last month, more than twenty Care Kits have been distributed by members of St. Philips to individuals unhoused or in a unstable housing situations. **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.

Needs are even more critical during the colder months. The following items are needed and may be left in the bin in the Narthex:

Hats	Toothpaste (small size)	Tissues
Warm Socks	Deodorant (men's)	Body Wipes
Warm Gloves	Snack Bars (Chewy)	
Hand Warmers	Cracker Packs	
Toothbrushes (single wrapped)	Individual fruit or applesauce	

From Outreach Team - Susan Mack



Your hands, heart, and treasure are appreciated as we work together to SERVE our neighbors! NEXT OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING is Tuesday February 3rd at 7 p.m. All are welcome to join us!

You are invited to join a group from St Philip's for **a tour of the new Food Hub facility at Lutheran Community Services on Wednesday January 28th at noon.** The tour will take place at the LCS offices located at 2809 Baynard Blvd Wilmington DE. Please email Susan Mack if you plan to attend the tour.

Join the Kenya Outreach Team on February 7, 2026 from 5-7:30 p.m. for KENYA OUTREACH NIGHT. Enjoy a Kenyan dinner, learn what life is like in Nalepo Kanan and at St Luke's school, and learn about plans for building on the relationship that began with the well project the church sponsored in the community.

Family Promise of NCC is holding a fundraiser breakfast on Tuesday February 20 at 8 a.m. at the Ed Oliver golf club in Wilmington. Contact Marty Budd if you are interested.

From the Kenya Outreach Team

The Kenya Outreach Team met on January 7th and finalized plans for a very exciting Kenya Outreach Night coming up on Friday, February 7 at 5:00 p.m. This special evening will celebrate Kenyan culture while highlighting our growing partnership with St. Luke's Inkinsanjani in Kenya.

Kenya Outreach Night is a family-friendly event for all ages, featuring opportunities to rotate through a variety of educational stations with fun, hands-on activities throughout the evening. It will be a festive and engaging way to learn more about our partner community, explore current and future outreach efforts, and enjoy a meaningful night of connection together.

Whether you are already involved with the team or simply curious to learn more, everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to join us, please sign up using the link below so we know you're coming:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-61262081-kenya>

We look forward to sharing this exciting evening with you!

From Outreach - Two Events: Caroling and Service Fair - Susan Mack





Wishing you God's love from LCM!

2025 was an amazing year for Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, with a richness of faith-building and fun activities; dedicated volunteer and student leadership; generous financial support; exciting and fun special events; and an abundance of new students. As a result, we're starting 2026 with gratitude, hope, trust, and eagerness to see just what else God holds in store for our ministry and for our diverse, inspiring students.

We're grateful to all of you for your generous support and care for LCM via your prayers, financial contributions, and in-kind gifts, including dinners, which help to make this ministry possible—and thrive!

Our spring plans include weekly Tuesday dinners and worship gatherings at our chapel, student coffee and conversation outings, Bible study on the Gospel of Mark, volunteering with FISH (*Fellowship in Serving the Hungry*), a special Easter dinner, a retreat, and Senior Honor Night. If you'd like to come visit with us at the chapel on a Tuesday evening, please do; we love to talk with members of local congregations and our LCM supporters! If you're interested in teaming up with friends to bring a home-cooked meal for students, please call our office, or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. Our students are very grateful for home-cooked treats.

We especially invite your prayers this spring...

For junior, **Rachel**, who was baptized on Joy Sunday (12/14/25), for God's blessings and guidance in this joyful new chapter of her journey of faith.

For junior, **Ilsa**, as she studies abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France, for this coming term.

For students and alumni seeking **work and summer internships** in their fields.

For our LCM Directing Committee (governing board), together with many students and alumni, as we gather on Saturday, February 21, for a **Visioning Meeting**, that the Holy Spirit will bless and guide our corporate dreaming and brainstorming, as we pray and talk together about the future of LCM at UD.

Thank you from our hearts for your ongoing support and prayers!

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



LCM's student leaders join me in wishing you an abundance of God's love!

Getting into Winter

(Reporter's note: These articles are based on monthly reports by the department heads at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center. As a result, they are a month behind. So, the activities you will read below happened in December as, at the time of this writing, January isn't over! Kinda like going back in time...kinda.)

As you might guess, December was full of holiday celebrations. But at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, it was a lot more.

Center Curriculum Coordinator, Dashaba Fielder, says that the holidays bring out different colors like gold, red, green, white and opportunities to be creative.

"(Toddler scholars) painted hands and feet to create holiday keepsakes for their families. They sang the traditional *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and they enjoyed creating 'reindeer' hats using construction paper and crayons."



Meanwhile, the preschoolers enjoyed a winter theme. "They made snowflakes,...hot cocoa at the hot chocolate bar (with) sprinkles, candy canes, and whipped sprinkles. They even enjoyed a holiday movie, *The Polar Bear Express*." Of course, what would a Christmas celebration be without a visit from Santa?! Center Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh, says the season's highlight was the second annual *Brunch and Books with Santa*.



"This event hosted over 40 families within local communities, including Hilltop employees and their families. This literacy-centered event was filled with holiday-themed music and décor, delicious soul food provided by *The Vibe Catering*, a range of books purchased from 2nd and Charles, family reading time, a live dance performance, a reading of the classic book *A Night Before Christmas*, pictures with Santa, and more. Families unanimously attested to this being a great event and look forward to next year."



According to Hilltop Executive Director, Michelle Williams, there was programming for adults in December too.

"The Build & Bond Men's Wellness Group' met at Hilltop on December 23rd. Participants learned how to cook healthy with simple, real ingredients. The group is lead by stroke survivor, wellness expert, David Hannah, MS."

At least 3 Christmas miracles occurred at the center in December. Michelle says the first was "Speedway Children's Charities, Dover Motor Speedway Chapter, awarded Hilltop \$5000 to continue supporting children in need and making positive impacts. I attended the Grant Awards Luncheon at Evergreen Farms in Dover to accept the award on December 3rd."

The second miracle was the gifts supplied by the Lutheran Churches in New Castle County. "The annual Christmas gift delivery was held on December 21st. Thanks to all who made it possible for every child to receive gifts!"

Michelle says the third miracle involved providing a special Christmas for two Hilltop families who, "were adopted for Christmas. Both families recently found affordable housing after experiencing homelessness for extensive periods of time."

And so another year draws to a close. Another year of service to the children and their families in the Hilltop Area of Wilmington. Here's to an even better year full of opportunity and service for those in need.

Thank you for your continued support,
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, Lorraine Moritz and Family

We Pray for our Loved Ones: *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Ruth DiDonato**, family of 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; **Louise Cookson**, grandmother & **Beth Cookson**, mother of Nick Cookson; **Dorothy Owens**, sister of Ruth Henry; **Stuart Emerson & Family**, friends of the Swift Family; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simpser; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son of Yvonne Cilento; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott, & **Lee Craig**, friend of The Budds; **Diane Balinski & Debra Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family & **Myron Davis**, brother of Mark & Marge Davis; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **John, Sr. & Anna Longo**, parents of John Longo; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Alistair Black**, grandson of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Carol Henzy**, sister of Beth Molnar; **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; **Mark & Jeanne Favreau**, family of Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pysher; **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; **Kevin Hewitt**, brother of Rebecca Litterst; **Dean Shippy**, father of Lisa Kenney

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Matthew Mignogna	2/1	Sharon Holeman	2/20
Michael Newcomer	2/2	Myrna Symonds	2/20
Danny Mason	2/3	Vince Suddard	2/21
Sia Joy Nkurlu	2/3	Blagovesta (Eva) Dimitrova	2/22
Matthew Brenneman	2/5	Trudy Gilgenast	2/23
Matthew Cory	2/7	David Porter	2/23
Mike Mack	2/7	Linda Sayther	2/23
Samantha Obara	2/8	Rebekah Barron	2/25
Chris Hewlett	2/10	Chaltu Bekele	2/28
Andy Brenneman	2/11	Diana Schneider	2/28
		Alan Start	2/28

May God Bless You on Your Special Day!



Congratulations to Andy and Allyssa Brenneman at the birth of their son, **Wesley Thomas** on **December 21, 2025**, 9 lbs. 3 ounces, 22 inches long.

This is the first grandchild for Tom and Pam Brenneman a/k/a Proud Grandparents!



Congratulations to Anthony, Amber and big sister, Juliette deFiore, they welcomed **Rosemary Victoria deFiore** on **December 23, 2025**. at 5:08 a.m., 9 lbs. 7 ounces, 20.5 inches long.

Pam and Chuck Cory have another granddaughter!



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