

# THE GUIDEPOST



**March 2026 Issue**

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## CHECK OUT!

LCS and Hilltop  
Tour Info and Pics

Pages 23, 24 & 25

## LOOK WHAT'S COMING!

Together in Faith  
with the Bishop!!!!

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## MARK YOU CALENDAR!

2026 Holy Week  
Schedule

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**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)

## Who is Bishop Gohl and Why is He Visiting?

Our Bishop, Bill Gohl, is going to be visiting on March 1st. He'll also be at the Spaghetti Dinner the night before. One of the things I've always been keenly aware of at St. Philip's is that we are always welcoming in new people and so while our Bishop normally gets to visit St. Philip's about every other year. There will be many of you who may have missed him last time or who are new to St. Philip's.

The ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) is our National Church, also referred to as our "denomination" of Christianity here in the United States. The ELCA is divided into 65 geographical synods (it's a little like a diocese). Each synod is overseen by a Synod Council and a Bishop. Our Bishop for about the last 9 or 10 years is Rev. William Gohl, Bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod. Now, I could give you Bill's CV and resumé, but I don't think that gets at the heart of the Bishop that I know.

You see, Bishop Gohl and I came into the ministry at the same time (I think he has a year or two on me in ministry, though I have a year or two on him in age). So, we've been friends for getting close to 25 years. The thing that has always stood out to me about Bill is that he is just an incredible pastor—he is caring and spirit filled. In my most difficult times, Bill has always had some piece of gospel or some piece of Jesus' heart to offer me, and those words, prayers, and care have gotten me through. He is grace filled, he is funny, and he loves parish ministry, which means that he loves coming to a church and meeting people like you. It gives him incredible joy to be a part of churches like St. Philip's. So, on the evening of February 28th at the Spaghetti Dinner and on March 1st you have a great chance to meet and talk with Bill. He'll be having fun with us and the youth group at the Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night. He is going to preach on Sunday, March 1st. He is also going to lead a session between worship services at our Together in Faith Event at 9:15 am on "Living Your Faith in Daily Life."

Come meet your Bishop, my friend, and just a wonderful human being. See you then!!



As we continue into the season of Lent, I am reminded of an Ash Wednesday story I once heard (for Ash Wednesday jump started our Lenten season):

There was a hospital chaplain who had attended an Ash Wednesday service over the noon hour. He came back to the hospital with ashes on his forehead, and went to go visit a particularly joyful and peppy resident – one who would say, “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!” after just about anything. But on this particular day, she asked about the dirt on his forehead, as she reached for a tissue to wipe it off. And he said, “No, no. It’s Ash Wednesday. This is a cross that has been placed on my forehead in ashes and oil.” Looking confused, she asked, “Why on earth would you do that?” After thinking for a moment, he said, “Because this is a sign that when life goes to hell, God is still with me.” God is still with us. It wasn’t long before this patient reached up, took some of the ashes off his forehead, and put them on hers, saying, “I think I need some of that.”

"I think I need some of that." With all of the hardships and losses we have had in our world, let alone our own church community, I think that last phrase, "I think I need some of that" rings true for all of us. Reminders that God is with us even in the darkest of times. That when we are at a loss for words, God dwells with us. That no matter the highs or the lows, God is right beside us the whole way. And that no matter what, nothing can separate us from the Love of God. Not even death.

There is something about the season of Lent where we realize, a little bit more than we have before, that we (as Pope Francis put it) "realize our need for God, again." Our need for connection. Our need for reminders that God is still with you, with me. And that's exactly what God does. Every single day. Because you, indeed, *have* "some of that." And that, my friends, is Jesus.

*A blessed Lenten season to you all!*



## **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!**

## Remembering Carol Johnson

Our hearts are heavy with the passing of Carol Johnson, a recent member of Church Council and a beloved part of the St. Philip's family.

Carol was truly one of the kindest people you could meet — sweet in spirit, generous in heart, and always ready with a warm smile. In her time with us, she offered not only her leadership but her genuine care for this congregation and its people. She will be deeply missed.

As many of you know, this is the second time in the past year that our council and congregation have experienced the loss of a fellow council leader. Moments like these remind us in a very real way of the fragility of life. They can leave us feeling shocked, saddened, and searching for steady ground.

And yet, even in grief, we are reminded of something powerful: we do not walk through these moments alone.

One of the greatest blessings of St. Philip's is the way this community shows up for one another — in joyful seasons and in the most difficult ones. We pray together. We reach out. We lift each other up. In times of loss, that shared care becomes both a comfort and a quiet source of strength.

In the days ahead, may we honor Carol's memory by continuing to embody the kindness and generosity she so naturally shared. May we check in on one another, offer grace freely, and hold close the gift of this community we are fortunate to be part of.

Please continue to keep Carol's family and all who loved her in your thoughts and prayers.

With care and gratitude for this community,

## From Finance - Teri Suddard

2/9/2026  
02:49 pm

St. Philip's Lutheran Church  
**Treasurer's Report**  
Finance year 2026, January

**Book 01: General**

	Actual Jan. 2026	Actual as of 1/31/2026	Budget as of 1/31/2026	Percent of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
00 - (no Major group)	45,443.55	45,443.55	43,629.00	104.16
<b>Income:</b>	<b>45,443.55</b>	<b>45,443.55</b>	<b>43,629.00</b>	<b>104.16%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
01 - Administration	766.19	766.19	3,183.33	24.07
02 - Committees	12,532.47	12,532.47	16,598.17	75.51
03 - Pastor	11,717.11	11,717.11	11,466.50	102.19
04 - Staff	16,493.14	16,493.14	17,567.83	93.88
05 - Utilities	2,140.45	2,140.45	1,375.00	155.67
06 - Benevolence	208.33	208.33	1,250.00	16.67
<b>Expense:</b>	<b>43,857.69</b>	<b>43,857.69</b>	<b>51,440.83</b>	<b>85.26%</b>
<b>Summary, Book 01: General</b>				
	Actual Jan. 2026	Actual as of 1/31/2026	Budget as of 1/31/2026	Percent of Budget
Income:	45,443.55	45,443.55	43,629.00	104.16%
- Expense:	43,857.69	43,857.69	51,440.83	85.26%
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>1,585.86</b>	<b>1,585.86</b>	<b>-7,811.84</b>	

## From the Offering Counters - Tom and Pam Brenneman



**Volunteers Needed – Offering Counting Team** - We're looking for volunteers to help count weekly offerings. Two-person teams work together, with one person counting and the other recording totals and preparing the bank deposit. Training is provided, and you're welcome to observe before committing. Teams typically serve once every 4–6 weeks, and most counting sessions take about one hour. Scheduling during your assigned week is flexible and coordinated with your partner. Interested or have questions? Please contact Pam or Tom Brenneman.



**O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, March 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 **March 10th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** We'll be joined that day by Cecilia Cronk from St. Marks Lutheran Church and she'll be talking about Griefshare, which ministers to those who have lost loved ones. Bring a lunch and join us.

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

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**Spring Healing Service**

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**Spring Healing Service** – Spring is the season of new life and new beginnings for the planet as the dark and cold of winter subside and plants and animals (and even people to a degree) come out of hibernation and inactivity. Those themes are the same themes of the healing we seek from God. So, on **Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30 p.m.**, we'll gather in the sanctuary for a time of prayer and healing. All are welcome. If you have questions, see Pastor Patrick or Pastor Amy.





## Wednesday Evenings at St. Philip's:

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

**March 4 \* March 11 \* March 18 \* March 25**

## **Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services & Community Lunches**

*Theme: "The People Jesus Meets"*

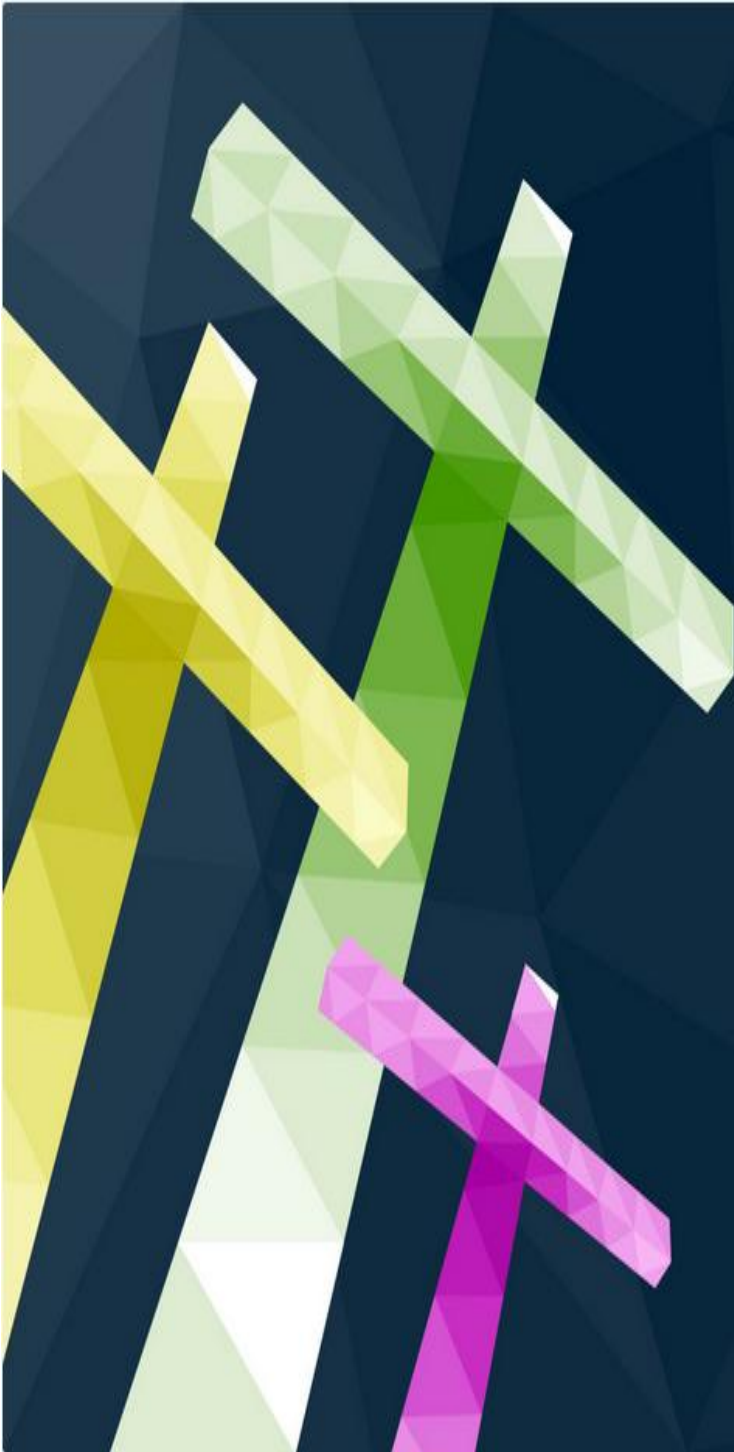
### Wednesdays at Noon:

**March 4 \* March 11**

**March 18 \* March 25**

**Noon to 1:30 p.m.**

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



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

## **Passion/Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**

Holy Communion Worship Service

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026**

Upper Room Worship Service  
With Stripping of the Altar

**7:30 p.m.**

## **Good Friday, April 3, 2026**

Tenebrae Service of Darkness

**7:30 p.m.**

## **Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026**

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

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

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

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

There will be **no** Christian Education To-  
day

# EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



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

**If you wish to order Easter Lilies this Year,  
please fill out the form below by  
Sunday, March 22, 2026  
and return to the church office or  
drop it in the offering plate.  
The cost per plant will be \$23.**

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

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

**Number of Lilies @ \$23 Each \_\_\_\_\_**

**Dedication:**

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

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

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

**Or submit form to: <https://forms.gle/6m6oMNV6X3DzsbqZ9>**

In March, we have the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** scheduled for **March 22nd** starting roughly around **Noon**. Please use the Signup Genius link to let us know that your family is coming. **(See the ad below!)** Lunch, treats, and of course easter eggs will be provided! Bring your easter basket with you and see who can find the most eggs!

In April, we have a **Craft Night** planned for **April 18th** from **4:00 PM till 7:00 PM**. Keep an eye out for a Signup Genius link for this event. Dinner and a craft will be 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 at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall. Due to the snow the schedule for the spring has been adjusted. On March 8 Pastor Patrick will complete the Seven Last Words of Christ presentation.. From March 15 - March 29 Pastor Amy will do a presentation on The Dead Sea Scrolls.

Mission Kids and Youth Group continue to meet. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on March 22 from 11:30am - 1pm.

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.

# 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.*

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

Join us: [Thursday, March 19, 2026!](#) We will be meeting at Chuck Lager's from 6:30-8:30pm! See you there!! All are welcome. Cheers!



HELLO  
*March*



## 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:

March 15th-29th - Rev. Amy Wright - The Dead Sea Scrolls

April 19th-26th - Rev. Wayne Moritz - Creation Care

May 3rd-10th - Rev. Dave Mueller - Two Kingdoms/Evangelical-Mainline Split



## 2026 Easter Breakfast

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

**Cost will be: \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children  
\$15.00 for family**

The Youth are raising money for their trip this summer.

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



MISSION KIDS AND YOUTH GROUP  
Valentine Service Project!  
Sunday, February 15, 2026



# Women's Ministry

The next **Daytime Book Group** will be **March 17th**, we will be discussing, A PIECE OF THE WORLD, and in April, HAVING OUR SAY. We meet at **St. Philip's in Room #127 at 12:30 p.m.** Please join us.

**Spring is coming!** Keep a watch out for the **Women, Whine and Wine** and **Young at Heart Gatherings!** Both groups will have new dates and times coming in March! For any questions about Women, Whine and Wine, please contact Mary Kay LaRue or Gigi Mueller.

Pastor Amy and Gigi Mueller will be holding a **brainstorming meeting** in March to discuss our **women's ministry direction**. Time and date TBD. If you are interested in being part of this discussion, please contact Pastor Amy or Gigi Mueller!

**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 **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!

From the Annual Meeting - Pics by Pastor Amy



Our beloved Carol receiving her gift for serving on Council



Children occupying time in the Narthex



Les accepting the Servant of God award for himself and our/his beloved Gerry.



# MINISTRIES

**Stephen Ministers at St Philip's** are always ready to walk your path with you, whatever that might be. Loneliness, illness, grieving, or depression.

Just let Pastor Patrick or Gigi Mueller know and you will be matched with a caring and compassionate 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.

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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **March 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 **March 11th in Room #031.** New people are welcome!! Contact Sharon Kittle. A **second group** is meeting Sundays after church. **The next meeting will be TBD 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 **March 10th at 1 p.m.** in Room #129. For more information, contact Erica Holmes or Jane Newcomer.

**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.

**Pinner and Knotters** meet on the **third Wednesdays of each month.** The next meeting is **March 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, March 11, 2026 and March 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



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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 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 for requests for donations of needed 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**

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## **From the Care Kits Ministry - Donna Porter**

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Thank you to all who have contributed to the Care Kits and to those who have taken one or more kits to distribute in the community! We can use any items, but are running especially low on the items that are astericked (\*):

**Tooth paste**

**Tooth brush**

**Men's Deodorant (travel size) \***

**Small pack of tissues \***

**Band-Aids**

**Soap (unscented) or body wipes (non alcohol)**

**Socks (thick in winter, athletic in summer)\***

**Cracker sandwich packets (peanut butter or cheese)**

**Hat \***

**Gloves \***

**Sunscreen (summer)**

**Hand warmers**

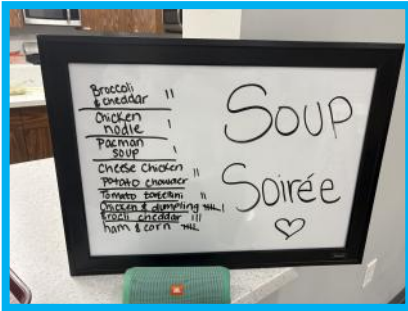
**Rain Ponchos**

**Snack bar (chewy not hard)**

**Water bottle**

**Fruit cup or applesauce**

# From YG Soup Soiree and Game Night - Pastor Amy



# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## March 2026

- March 1 – No Youth Group
- March 8 – Driving Scavenger Hunt + Build-Your-Own-Sundae (5-8pm)
  - An OG St. Philip's YG event + ice cream?! Yes!
  - Bring your favorite topping to share! Ice cream will be provided!
- March 15 – Main Event at Christiana (12-4:30pm)
- March 22 – Easter Egg Hunt with Mission Kids @ 11:45am (lunch is provided)
- March 29 – TBD!

## April 2026

- April 4 (Saturday) – Easter Breakfast Bacon Prep (9-11am)
- April 5 – Easter Sunday Breakfast! We serve breakfast all morning long! It's another great fundraiser for our YG!



## What is the Lutheran Community Service new Food Hub all about?

Did you ever wonder where the money donated to LCS by St Philip's goes and how it serves the community? Have you seen photos of the new Food Hub and wondered what goes on inside? On January 28, Rob Gurnee, the soon-to-be-retired executive director of LCS, gave several St Philip's members a tour of the new Food Hub warehouse that opened about eight months ago. For those who visited the LCS office on Baynard Blvd in the past, all the employees and volunteers worked out of one small building with only a basement to store food and host food programs for the community. LCS worked for several years to develop its "food is medicine" or Food Farmacy initiative. The biggest part of this program happens in conjunction with Christiana Care. Each week, LCS provides a healthy selection of food to patients with specific health issues while a community health aide employed by Christiana Care regularly meets with the clients to follow their health and provide instruction on healthy cooking and eating. This Food Farmacy initiative, along with a revamped traditional food pantry operation, required a much larger space for food storage, packing, and distribution. LCS was able to solicit grant funding to make the new Food Hub facility possible. The Food Hub is literally humming with banks of commercial refrigerators and freezers and alive with volunteers and staff during the week as they sort food deliveries and pack and deliver individual orders for Food Farmacy clients and serve all community members who come to the traditional food pantry on Fridays.

According to Rob, the "food is medicine" approach to health is growing among non-profits addressing food insecurity (e.g., LCS!) and health. The program that LCS operates with CCHS collects data on the health outcomes of those who go through the six-month program, in the hope that eventually insurance providers will be convinced to help fund healthy food for their medical patients with limited incomes. Governor Meyer is interested in the "food is medicine" concept at a state level and formed a task force to make policy recommendations. Clients served by LCS through its Food Farmacy program include those with diabetes, cardiac issues, sickle cell disease, and high risk pregnancies. The program served over 100,000 meals in 2025 to clients and their families.

*Article continues on Next Page* ➡

LCS also continues to support a network of food pantries in Wilmington, including pantries at St Stephen's and Unity Lutheran Churches. The LCS Food Hub houses a food pantry that provides food directly to the public every Friday. Food is offered to anyone who is in need of food to feed their families. Clients can come once a week on Fridays for staples and fresh produce and protein. Food banks are a lifeline for the many people in our community who do not have enough income to pay all their bills for rent, utilities, transportation, medical bills, and food. The food may allow them to put more money toward paying the electric bill, purchasing medication, or putting gas in their car to get to work. Over 58,000 people were served through LCS food pantries in 2025, a 13 percent increase.

### ***What can you do to help??***

- Participate in or donate to LCS fundraisers such as Room at the Table Breakfast, golf tournament, and Walktoberfest (LCSDE.org)
- Donate food and personal care items directly to LCS or to one of the associated food banks
- Organize a food drive at work, church, or a community event
- Volunteer at LCS Food Hub or one of the other LCS food pantries

**Upcoming volunteer needs at LCS Food Hub on Baynard Blvd:** Beginning in April, 2-3 volunteers needed 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 10:30-12:30 packing food for seniors; In Summer months, Friday 10:30 –1 or 1-3:15 for public food distribution. Contact Jennifer Williams at [jwilliams@lcsde.org](mailto:jwilliams@lcsde.org) .

**For St Stephen's food bank (open M-F) contact Kanchalee Reeves at [office@ststeph.org](mailto:office@ststeph.org) .**



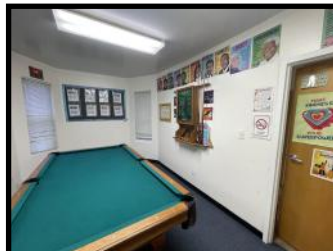
## **Reflections on a Tour of Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center**

Several St Philip's members visited the Hilltop neighborhood of Wilmington on February 11<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center (HLNC). Brandon Furrowh, the Deputy Director of HLNC (see photo), showed Angela Klemens, Donna Porter, and Lois Greeff around the vibrant community center while the late afternoon activities were taking place.

Angela described it as a very informative and incredibly enjoyable visit. The St Philip's visitors were very impressed with the joy and energy of everyone they met. Among the facilities they saw were various age-specific classrooms for the early childhood program, the teen recreation room, the gym, the food pantry, a craft room, a teaching kitchen as well as the main kitchen where daily meals are prepared, the family services center, and the game room. Angela also shared that they were lucky enough to see the twice weekly barber shop in operation! Donna observed that Hilltop is a truly nurturing and supportive environment that works to help children succeed educationally and personally. The HLNC executive director, Dr. Michelle Williams, updated the group on the fundraising status for Hilltop's building renovation plans. They are about halfway to their goal of \$10M, which will go toward updating the building, including a full-size rooftop gym.

Some special facts about Hilltop: There are approximately 44 staff members, there are fun classes like cooking and DJ training, and Miss Cookie (see photo) enthusiastically organizes the parents for social gatherings to build community. Board member Elizabeth Stirk shares that as of January 2026, HLNC serves 183 children, ages 6 weeks to 19 years old, and their families in their daycare, after school, and family programs. Elizabeth serves on the HLNC board along with Tom Krapf Jr. (see photo of plaque honoring Tom Krapf Sr!).

Learn more at [www.hilltoplnc.org](http://www.hilltoplnc.org) or by talking to those who went on the tour!





## *Lenten blessings and peace to you from LCM at UD!*

As Lent arrives once again, we wish you God's peace, comfort, grace, and courage as we journey in repentance and remembrance, as well as in hope and gratitude, toward the ultimate joy of Easter.

The students of Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD gather each week for dinner and worship, as well as for monthly volunteer opportunities with FISH, *Fellowship in Serving the Hungry*. We're blessed to have many new members, as well as strong student leadership. Fun activities since spring term began have included a coffee and conversation gathering at Brew HaHa! on Main Street, an afternoon of ice skating, and a productive and Holy Spirit-led Visioning Meeting, together with alumni and Directing Committee members. Additional plans are under way for a day-long spring retreat to Longwood Gardens in April, along with special end-of-term events.

Please consider a visit to our LCM chapel this term! You also might consider teaming up with friends to bring Tuesday dinner for the LCM students. For more information, please call the office or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. We also welcome volunteers to assist with our spring property work day, scheduled for Saturday, April 11, from 10 AM to 1 PM. If you're interested in becoming more involved with Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, please contact me. Thank you.

Thank you from our hearts for keeping this vibrant student ministry in your prayers. We particularly welcome prayers for Ilsa (front left in the group photo below), a junior who is studying abroad in Aix-en-Provence this term, as well as for continued strengthening and blessing of our growing student group.

May Jesus grant you a deep sense of His peace and presence with you throughout this Lenten season!

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



*Whether in quiet reflection or in time spent with friends,  
may your Lenten journey reflect the love and peace of Christ!*

## *Grants and Snow at the Hilltop Center*

Thanks to a partnership and a mini grant, as well as the late January snowstorm, students at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center learned about science, became better readers, and saw, firsthand, what snowplows and trucks do to clear snow.



Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, reports that, thanks to a mini grant from Delaware Afterschool Network (DEAN), students “completed 4 hours of activities taken from the Mizzen Education app.” In addition, Teresa says science programs are being considered for this year’s summer camp. “Right now, we are planning field trips and deciding on what types of STEM/STEAM activities we will be providing this year.”

The partnership was with Delaware United Way to resume the *Book Nook* program which, Teresa says, is “a statewide computer program designed to help students become better readers. The children spend 30 minutes a day on the computer reading different paragraphs that become a little more challenging as they read each day. There is a staff member guiding them through the readings, and when 30 minutes of reading time is up, they are told how well they have done. We also use *Book Nook* during our Summer Camp.”



So where do the snowplows come in? Center Curriculum Coordinator, Dashaba Fielder, says it came during a session about construction. “*The Construction Site* in dramatic play included hard hats and safety vests. (Students) learned the names of several construction vehicles. In the wake of the recent snowstorm, the children were able to see a bulldozer scoop up the snow and dump it into the back of a dump truck. The children were excited to see the construction vehicles doing their job.”

What would a study of construction sites be without a review of signs? Dashaba says many different signs were reviewed. “*Signs Keep us Safe* allowed our ECAP (Early Childhood Assistance Program) children to learn and create street signs in the classroom. The children created their own neighborhood using blocks, vehicles, and signs. The students created a traffic signal and discussed the inventor of the traffic light, Garrett Morgan, in honor of Black History Month.”

On the business side of the Hilltop operation, Executive Director Michelle Willilams reports that early childhood education classrooms will participate in a professional learning experience (PLE). “This a mandate from the Department of Education for all State Funded and Early Head Start programs. The Pyramid Model is a multi-tiered, evidence-based framework designed to promote social-emotional development and address challenging behaviors in early childhood. Hilltop’s PLE will begin in February and lasts through June.”

## 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, 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 Davis, David Nevins, John Frink, Kelly Krapf, Trudy Gilgenast, Carol Goodman, Tony Calvarese, David Kenney, The Family of Vic Brick, The Family of Marge Davis, Lisa Kenney 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 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 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; **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; **Rory Manhard**, granddaughter of Suzanne Bradley; **Paul Throne**, brother of Pam Breneman



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

**May God Bless You on Your Special Day!**



**Sunday, March 8, 2026**



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  
Rebecca Bardenhagen, Secretary  
Mike Berkheimer, Financial Secretary

### **Council:**

Donna Daugherty  
Tom Gustaitis  
Michael Imgarten  
David Kenney  
Rebecca Litterst  
Kate McGovern

### **Council (continued):**

Debbi Miller  
Steve Nkurlu  
Jim Stevens

### **Committees/Activities:**

Altar Guild.....  
Christian Education.....  
Enviro. Stewardship.....  
Fellowship.....  
Finance/Audit.....  
Grocery Club.....  
Habitat Restoration Group  
Kenya Outreach Team..  
Outreach.....  
Prayer Ministry.....  
Property.....  
.....  
Stephen Ministry.....  
Worship and Music.....

Carol Oesterbo  
Sharon Kittle  
David Porter  
Pam Sheffer  
Coleman Bye  
Nancy Zinnato  
Phil & Mary Duncan  
Sarah Swift  
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