

# THE GUIDEPOST



**April 2026 Issue**

## **CHECK OUT!**

Habitat Restoration  
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## **LOOK WHAT'S COMING!**

Spring Clean  
Up Day!

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## **MARK YOU CALENDAR!**

Holy Week  
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March Madness: St. Philip's Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Night and Lenten Soup, Bread & Vespers!



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

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## In the Image of God . . . In the Midst of a Chaotic World

Maybe I'm getting old . . . Or maybe I'm just tired of the constant sense of conflict in our world today, both within and without our nation, which includes the recent and ongoing war in Iran. Now, whoa, folks . . . This is not a political thing at all. I am well aware of the violence that the Iranian Mullahs bring upon their people. I am well aware of the nuclear ambitions of the regime. And I am also well aware that for the last 47 years, this has been one of the most destabilizing regimes in the Middle East. There is not an argument that you can make that makes me feel better about this . . . Because my objection is not due to THIS conflict. It is not political for me. It is theological.

I was watching an episode of "The Pitt" a few weeks ago (If you haven't watched that show, I HIGHLY recommend it). And in one of the story lines a husband and wife were in a car accident and the doctors were working on the husband in the ER, and the wife was in the room with them and was crying. She explained that she was beside herself because she had booked this trip to go away with her husband, but he didn't want to go because of work. And they fought, until he gave in and they got in the car and went. Well, as the show progresses, they stabilize him, but then she collapses with injuries they didn't know about and while we were thinking as viewers that the husband got the worse part of it, as it turns out, the bigger risk is the internal injuries of the wife. The husband then begins to cry and expresses his regret that he fought her on something as ridiculous as a trip she booked for them. He says to the doctor something along the lines of "So this is how it works?" The doctor says, "What do you mean?" And the husband says, "Things are so important . . . You think things are so important and then you wind up here and you see." And the doctor pauses and responds, "Yeah, that's how it works."

There was something in that scene that I realized, and it was that they both realized the love the other had for them and that THAT was what really mattered. We have the same idea in our faith and it is that every person is created in the Image of God, that every person has value because God loved them enough to breathe life into them and therefore, we should value those lives that have had God's breath of life breathed into them. It's out of Genesis 1—right in the beginning: *Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image."* It is a theological concept referred to as *Imago Dei*. God could have made us like the animals or fish or birds. But God chose to set us apart as special: created in God's image and thus worthy of respect and love.

Friends, that doesn't mean that there won't be wars or arguments or disagreements (internationally, nationally, or in our own homes). But how we speak to each other and how we regard each other (Ernie speaks about this in his letter in the next few pages) . . . I think there needs to be a little more recognizing that we are all created in God's Image: worthy of respect and love. That is our response to a callous and cruel world as followers of Jesus. Amen.

Greetings all,

I just wanted to take this moment to say a very big "THANK YOU" for your support at our Youth Group's Annual "Spaghetti Dinner + Bingo Night" on Saturday, Feb. 28th! Thank you so much to *everyone* who made it possible. And that *everyone* is **you**! Thank you for supporting our young people, thank you for attending, thank you for donating supplies and raffle items, thank you for your donations, and thank you for supporting our church! We had folks of all ages that ate, played Bingo, and cheered in the pie-ing activities - it was a fantastic evening!! A special shout out to the wonderful Youth Group parents who worked in the kitchen the whole night to make everything run smoothly! A special shout out to Pr. Patrick and our Bishop Bill Gohl for agreeing to get pied-in-the-face! And a special shout out to our phenomenal youth group - you all rocked it and deserve all the credit! What a fun night!!

It truly means so much and every year I am continually blown away by your love and support to our Youth Group and this congregation. I have never seen anything like it and I give so much thanks to God for the privilege to serve with and alongside this wonderful church! I am proud to be one of the pastors of this congregation.

Every year I like to add a new entertainment component (you're welcome) and I already have some good ideas in store for you all next year! We cannot wait for next year's Spaghetti Dinner + Bingo Night!!!

Details from that night:

- We raised \$1,500 for the Bishop to get pied-in-the-face (he said he would do it ONLY for St. Philip's and ONLY if we raised \$500 - way to go St. Philip's)!!
- We raised nearly \$6,500 from that evening with all the proceeds going to the Youth Group for their mission summer trip to Mt. Gilead, OH!
- We had well over 250 people in attendance!
- We served so much spaghetti and meatballs I lost track of how many pounds we served but it was A LOT!

All of this to say: thank you so very much for the support for it means so much! It was such a fun night and we cannot wait for next year! Thanks be to God for you and for the incredible ministry we continue to do, here, at St. Philip's!

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**From the President - Amanda DeWeese**

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As April arrives, we begin to see the signs of spring all around us. The days grow a little longer, the air a little warmer, and the first flowers begin to bloom. After the quiet stillness of winter, this season reminds us that renewal and new life are always on the horizon.

This time of year also brings us into the season of Lent—a time for reflection, preparation, and renewal of our faith as we move toward Easter. Lent invites us to slow down, take stock of our lives, and consider how we might grow in compassion, generosity, and connection with one another.

At St. Philip's, spring is always a wonderful reminder of the life of our congregation. As the season changes outside, we continue the meaningful work happening within our church through worship, fellowship, service, and the many ministries that bring our community together.

I am grateful for each of you and the many ways you contribute to the life of St. Philip's. As we move through this season of reflection and renewal, I look forward to all that we will continue to share and accomplish together.

Wishing you a peaceful and meaningful Lenten season and a beautiful start to spring.

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**From the Council - Tom Gustaitis**

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*Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."*

God does not promise us a life without trouble. He promises His presence in the trouble. Notice the language of this verse:

Not if you pass through the waters—when. Not if you walk through the fire—when. Storms are part of life. But destruction is not part of God's plan for His people. This verse doesn't say we will not face hardship.

It is a declaration of God's direct companionship and intervention for our preservation. Some know that everyday waters rise. Bills stack up. Diagnoses come. Relationships strain. Grief overwhelms.

But God says, “I will be with you.” The promise is not that the waters won’t be deep— The promise is that they won’t be fatal. You may feel submerged, but you are not abandoned. You may be overwhelmed, but you are not overtaken. God’s Word states “I will not leave you nor forsake you.” - Hebrews 13:5B

He will always be there.

Rivers are moving waters—pressure, momentum, and force.

Sometimes they are a trickle, sometimes they are rushing, pounding, it seems like a never-ending process with no way to get to the other side. We call it trials. Some trials don’t just surround us;

They try to carry us away.

- \* Temptation that keeps pulling on us
- \* Fear that keeps flowing around and sometimes feels like it’s going over us.
- \* Circumstances that won’t slow down no matter how hard we try to fight it.

Understand that God doesn’t say the river won’t be strong. What He says is, “it won’t have the final say!” Whatever threatens to carry you off course, will never cancel God’s purpose over your life. You are only passing through, but you are not being swept away.

Stand strong and don’t be a hero. Don’t fight the waters on your own, look to your left and your right. You have a brother and sister waiting, willing and able to stand by your side and help you through this process. You are never alone, the church is full of family, remember that.

You are the most important to each of us. Don’t forget that and even it gets rough - reach out. We are there, but most importantly so is God.

So, how do we apply the meaning of Isaiah 43:2 to our lives? It boils down to having confidence in God to do what he’s promised in the midst of our suffering and difficulties. How can we display confidence? You keep your eyes on Jesus when you pass through the waters and when you walk through the fire.

In Matthew 14:22-33 an incredible story unfolds that perfectly depicts this. Jesus calls Peter to walk on the water toward him during a storm. Peter doesn’t hesitate and hops out of the boat. Soon he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses instead on the waves and the depth of the water. He sinks. Jesus doesn’t hesitate and pulls him out.

In this story Peter illustrates both what we should do and shouldn’t do in storms. First, he boldly steps out of the boat in response to Jesus. When we accept the calling of Jesus there will be storms, but that shouldn’t keep us from following Jesus. Peter did what we all should do.

However, Peter walking on water is also a cautionary tale. Once on the waters he began to sink because he took his eyes off Jesus. When we are facing storms in this life we’ve got to focus on Jesus rather than the storms around us. When we take our eyes off Jesus the storms of life will quickly overtake us.

So, when you pass through the waters keep your eyes on Jesus and the storms that you face will not take you out. God is with you and he will lead you through.

PRAYER:

*God help me through today. I know that no matter what comes my way you promised it would not overwhelm me or consume me. Please help me and those I live, work and serve with and watch over all so that we can complete the work we have been given and let us remember that you are with us through it all. Thank you, Lord, for watching over us in all we do. Amen*

From Bishop Sunday - March 1, 2026



♡ grateful ♡  
AND blessed





**O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, April 14th.** 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 **April 14th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** We'll be joined that day by Rob Hall from Orphan Grain Train and he'll be talking about the ministry that he runs which benefits those in need throughout the world. Bring a lunch and join us.

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**From Altar Guild - Carol Oesterbo, Lorraine Velez and Nancy Griffith**

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Think Spring! Greetings from Altar Guild – 2025/2026 – finds Altar Guild welcoming new members to Altar Guild and Bread Ministry – Pam Cory, Anne Hamilton, Cindy Hoyt, Debbie Pouser, Lorraine Moritz, and Valerie Nicholas – It takes a village and we definitely have great team work and dedication. AND – we are always open to having new members!!!! We meet four times a year..

Lent & Easter Season finds Altar Guild involved with the Special Services, and I want to thank all the members who participated in the Maunday Thursday – Stripping of the Altar (Sally Krapf, Sharon Mutschlar, Tom & Pam Brenneman, Corky Bye, John Newcomer, Harold Holeman, Nancy Griffith, Sharon Holeman,, Debbie Pouser, Alice Downes, Donna Daugherty, Diana Schneider, Karen Baumbach,Pam Sheffer, Faith Simperts, Lorraine Velez ) Worship & Music Team who prepared the Upper Room, The Youth who served in the Upper Room, and our awesome Pastors who create this experience for all of us, and bring us God's words. Good Friday and Easter Services continue the special work that Altar Guild members perform – Thanks to all !!!!!

April 12<sup>th</sup> will be the First Communion Reception after the 10:30 service that day – we will have Cake and punch to celebrate Caroline, Aiden, Charlotte, Paloma, and Jasper's First Communion! -be sure to stop down to congratulate them.

Our next Altar Guild Meeting is **May 4<sup>th</sup>**, at **6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall –please come to our meeting and get to know us – or contact myself or Nancy Griffith, Lorraine Velez for more information.

Blessings, Carol Oesterbo, Altar Guild Chairperson, Nancy Griffith, and Lorraine Velez

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## Thank You From the Family of Carol Johnson

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Dear Friends of St. Philip's,

We wanted to write sooner, but time moves fast nowadays. Please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your prayers, food, gifts, flowers, and love during this time. We feel so blessed to have your support during this very difficult time in our lives. Each day, we get better and have more desires to move forward.

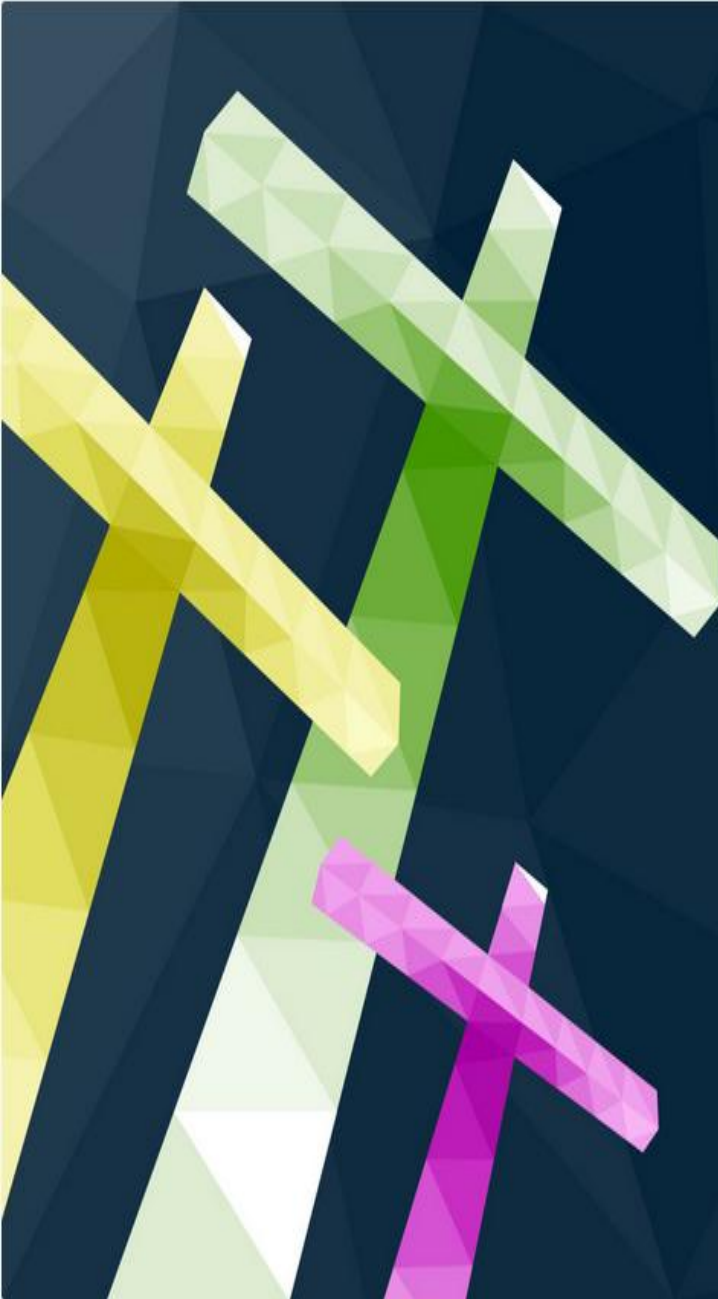
For me, recently, I've found myself paying less attention to the news and limiting my time on the internet in favor of reading the bible, praying, and watching Perry Mason. We have learned to live more like Carol by being positive by finding and focusing on the good things life brings us.

Over the last few weeks, I have rewired myself. I want to think good things and do good deeds instead of wasting time asking God, "Why me?" This profound experience has led me to spend time focusing on what's important in life - and I implore others to do the same. Remember that we are made in the image and likeness of God.

We love you all and hope Carol's presence, her love, voice, and gentleness all reach you as much as it still reaches us. We were so blessed to have her in our lives. Thank you so much for your unconditional support and love.

Peace,  
Derek & Ernie Frisicchio

*Thank You*



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

## **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 Today



# TOGETHER IN FAITH



## A Community Learning Experience for all Ages

**Sunday, May 17, 2026**

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

- Adults and Youth will share and fellowship
- Kid's Club will meet as usual.
- Information/Kick off for Summer of Service
- There will be a poster in the narthex to sign-up to bring breakfast casseroles, muffins, coffee cake, donuts or fruit soon!

**\*The Nursery Will Be Open!**



The image is a neon sign on a dark blue background. At the top, the word "MISSION" is written in large, outlined letters, with "Kids" in a smaller, pink cursive font below it. The sign is decorated with several stars of different sizes and colors. Below the main text, there are two event announcements. The first event is "April 25<sup>th</sup> 4pm-7pm Mission Kids Get Messy" with a paintbrush icon and a "date change" note. The second event is "July 19<sup>th</sup> Time TBD Pool Party & Cookout" with a flamingo and a palm tree icon. A QR code is provided for RSVP, with a note that dinner is provided.

**MISSION Kids**

*date change*

**April 25<sup>th</sup> 4pm-7pm**  
**Mission Kids Get Messy**

*RSVP*



**(Dinner provided)**

**July 19<sup>th</sup> Time TBD**  
**Pool Party & Cookout**

# 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.

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

The *Voices of Faith* program for **Adults** continues on Sunday morning at 9:15 in the fellowship hall. The schedule for April and May is as follows:

- **April 19.** Pastor Patrick will finish his *Last Words* presentation.
- **April 26 - May 3.** Pastor Wayne Moritz will present *Creation Care Ministries*
- **May 10.** Pastor Dave Mueller will present *Evangelical and Mainline Divide*

**Mission Kids** and **Youth Group** continue to meet. The youth will be serving breakfast in the fellowship hall on Easter Sunday.

There is **no Christian Ed on April 5 and April 12 (Easter holiday)**.

Looking ahead.....the last **Together in Faith breakfast** of the program year will be on **May 17th**. The program will be about our Summer of Service.

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.



Congratulations to those who  
are receiving their First Communion  
on Sunday, April 12th at the 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Service:

*Aiden Brian Carr*  
*Charlotte Noel Carr*  
*Caroline Josephine Nicholas*  
*Paloma Lee Saunders*  
*Jasper George Saunders*

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From Pub Thology - Pastor Amy

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# 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, April 16, 2026!** We will be meeting at Chuck Lager from 6:30-8:30pm – this will be the last one we have until the fall so you won't want to miss this one! See you there!! All are welcome.

Cheers!



## 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:**

April 5-12 - Easter Break

April 19 - Pastor Patrick - Last Module of Last Words of Christ

April 26-May 3 - Pastor Wayne Moritz - Creation Care

May 10 - Pastor Dave Mueller - Evangelical/Mainline Split

May 17th - Together in Faith - Summer of Service Presentation



# Kids Club

Clocks change = COZY DAY

Kids Club enjoyed a snack and watched a movie about the Easter Story on the sleepest day of the year.

# Women's Ministry

The next **Daytime Book Group** will be **Tuesday, April 21st**, our book of choice will be *Having our Say*. For the meeting on **May 19th** our book will be *The Silent Sister*. We meet at **St. Philip's in Room #127 at 12:30 p.m.** On **June 16th** is our **Summer Salad and Dessert Luncheon** at **Gigi Mueller's house**. New people are welcome! Please join us! Questions, ask Gigi Mueller

**Women, Whine and Wine** had a great March outing! We will be meeting again on **April 25th**, watch for more information. For any questions about Women, Wine and Whine, please contact Mary Kay LaRue or Gigi Mueller.

**The Young at Heart Group** is a gathering of women who are 70 years old and up—we gather to have fellowship and connect with each other on our mutual experiences in this time of our lives. The next gathering will be **TBD** from **1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** at Gigi Mueller' home. If you have questions or need more details contact 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 **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!

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## Women's Beach Retreat

**Women's Annual Spring Beach Retreat** - It's time for the Annual Women's Spring Beach Retreat! The weekend includes time to bond with other St. Philip's women, engage in Bible study, pray, learn about each other, and enjoy time in Lewes, DE. **The retreat house is open starting the evening of April 16th for anyone who wants to get a start on the weekend. However, the official retreat activities won't start until Friday, April 17th around 5:00 PM. We'll be together until Sunday afternoon on April 19th.** Saturday afternoon is free time to visit the beach, shop, talk, or pamper yourselves. The weekend's theme is "Empowered!" Through the weekend, we'll have a good time sharing stories with each other and talking about how we can be EMPOWERED! The retreat is being graciously hosted by Jodi Newcomer, so space is limited. The cost of the retreat is \$75 per person. That includes most meals and materials for the weekend. Payment in full is needed ASAP. If you have questions, reach out to Dawn Downes. Sign-up for the retreat by clicking on the link below and selecting your sleeping arrangement. After you sign-up, look for an email from Dawn with more details about the weekend. Here's the sign-up link:

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4FAAAD29A64-62741656-womens#/>**

# MINISTRIES

**Stephen Ministry** is a Christian lay caring ministry that provides one-to-one confidential and emotional spiritual support to individuals experiencing life difficulties such as grief, divorce, illness, job changes or loneliness. If you think you could use this ministry, please 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.

**The Shepherding Team** next meeting **Monday, May 4th @ 1 p.m.** in **Room #031**. We welcome three new Shepherd's: **Shirley Rash, Kate McGovern, and Mary Kay LaRue**

**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 **April 9th 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 **April 8th in Room #031**. New people are welcome!! Contact Sharon Kittle. A **second group** is meeting Sundays after church. **The next meeting will be Sunday, April 26th**, after the **10:30 service**. New people are welcome. Bring a lunch and come to the Mueller's home. We will start our discussion on prayer around **12-12:15 p.m.** Any questions, contact Gigi.

**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 **April 14th 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 **April 15th 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, April 8, 2026 and April 22, 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 March Family Promise host week a success. Our next host week will be May 10-16. A sign-up poster will be in the narthex and a Sign-Up Genius will be sent out by e-mail in late April 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!

**THE NEXT FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK:**

**The week of May 10, 2026 to May 16, 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 Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night! - Pastor Amy





**From the Youth Group - Pastor Amy**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ❑ **April 4** (Saturday) – Easter Breakfast Bacon Prep (9-11am)
- ❑ **April 5** – Easter Sunday Breakfast! Sign-up for shifts! We serve breakfast all morning long! It’s another great fundraiser for our YG!
- ❑ **April 12** – TBD
  - ❑ Confirmation Class Info Meeting @ 12:00PM (we will gather for 10-15 minutes, following the 2<sup>nd</sup> service, in one of the Christian Ed. classrooms for youth and families to meet to walk through what Confirmation Class is, what is learned (the basics of our faith), expectations, answer any questions, etc.! Youth are, typically, in grades 7-9<sup>th</sup>. Any questions or interest please let Pr. Amy know.
- ❑ **April 19** – Mini Golf @ Birdie’s (Middletown, DE) (12-4:30pm) OR Hangry Bear Creamery – stay tuned
- ❑ **April 26** – No Youth Group

### May 2026

- ❑ **May 1-3** – Youth Beach Retreat at Bethany Beach!!!!!!
- ❑ **May 10** - No Youth Group - Mother’s Day (We do have Breakfast Club – last Breakfast Club for this program year)
- ❑ **May 17** – Graduate Quilt Blessing + Ice Cream & Superlative Awards (1-2:30pm)
  - ❑ Tool Training for Work Camp (12-12:45pm)
- ❑ **May 24** - No Youth Group - Memorial Day Weekend

**Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo - Pie in the Face Fund Raiser**



**Caroline and George Celebrating their Success!**



**Caroline and George before they pie Pastor Patrick!!!!**

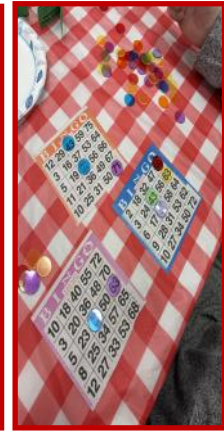
**Caroline and George Pieing the Pastor! Good Job!!!**



**Bishop Gohl before the pie!**

**Once in a life time "Pieing of the Bishop!"**

**Bishop Gohl after the pieing**





The **Annual Spring Clean-up day** has been scheduled for **Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>** from **8:30 am to noon** (Rain Date-April 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-5:00pm).

This year we will again be focusing on sprucing up the outside property. We will have both big and small jobs so something for all abilities.

This is a great opportunity to serve and help beautify the church property. Whatever time you can give would be most appreciated.

St. Philip's Property Committee

*Please contact Mark Myers with any questions!*

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**From the Youth - Youth Group Fundraiser - Easter Breakfast!**

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## 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.



## DE-VINE 2026 BEGINNING!

Early March weather finally allowed the Habitat Restoration Crew to resume work on the St Philips back yard. Our jolly crew braved a bit of fog to resume protecting some wonderful trees near the Ferris Drive property border. The large and small vines threatening our trees succumbed to saws, loppers and clippers, and now serve as critter habitat for our smaller animal residents. The trees and their leaf canopies will be open to the sun, allowing fuller and healthier growth.

In future weeks, Crew initiatives will include attending to other “needy” trees, clearing Invasives from the big meadow, and preparing an area for new plantings. Please note the “before “and “after” pictures from the 3.7.26 work session!

We invite our members and neighbors to join the Crew. At the moment we meet on the First Saturday and Third Wednesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. – noon (or as much of that time as you can spare!).

For more information, see Phil or Mary Duncan





## *Easter Greetings from LCM at UD!*

We give joyful thanks to our generous God for a year of abundance at Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD!

So far this academic year, we've welcomed 18 student visitors, and our dinner table has been full most weeks. (Please see the photo below.) Whether taking part in Tuesday dinners and worship time, attending Bible studies, volunteering with FISH, ice skating, hiking, or enjoying monthly "coffee and conversation" outings, the LCM students bring a wonderful spirit of joy, community, service, and **growing faith**. This month, we look forward to egg dyeing for Easter and a day-long retreat to Longwood Gardens!

We continue to look for new members for our Directing Committee (governing board.) We also invite volunteers to join us for the spring **property work day** on **Saturday, April 11**, beginning at 10 AM, attending to minor repairs and beautifying the LCM property. If you'd like to become more involved with Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, please contact me. Thank you!

If you're interested in visiting the LCM chapel, we love to spend time with congregational members and our LCM supporters. We're very grateful for dozens of tasty meals that have been prepared for students over the years. Perhaps you'd like to partner with a friend or two to bring a **Tuesday dinner** this spring. For more information, please call our office or refer to LCM's website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. And you're welcome to drop in to see us on Tuesday for a visit any time.

Thank you for your **prayers** for the students and volunteers of LCM. We especially welcome prayers for blessing and protection for Ilsa, a junior studying abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France; prayers for confidence and courage for Meghan, our one graduating senior; and prayers for guidance and deep peace for Vanessa, preparing for baptism this spring. Please also pray for all the new students who have connected with LCM, that they may discover a spiritual home among us and find LCM to be a joyful, welcoming, and Spirit-filled place to grow in service, outreach, discipleship, and faith in Jesus Christ! Thank you.

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



*A joyous, full dinner table on March 10!*

## Anxious for Springtime at Hilltop!

As the students at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center welcome springtime, they continue their study of a variety of topics. Most recently, our students celebrated and learned more about Black History. Center Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, reports that, not only did the children learn about the more famous African Americans in history, but also some of the lesser known, though no less impactful Black contributors to American life.

“Our children are totally unaware of the contributions Black Inventors have made in this country. Their first activity for learning about Black Inventors was reading a book called *Black Invention: 15 inventions that changed the world*. From the reading of this book, they learned about Garrett Morgan, the inventor of the Traffic light and the Gas Mask; Charles Drew, the inventor of Blood plasma, which eventually became The Blood Bank as we know it today. Some women inventors,” Teresa noted, “helped to change the world! Women like Marie Van Brittan, who invented the Home Security System, Dr. Patricia Bath, who invented the Laserphaco Eye Surgery Device, which has helped millions of people improve their eyesight, and Lisa Gelobter, who improved computer technology and created WEB Animation.”

While the older Hilltop children were learning Black history, Center Curriculum Coordinator, Dashaba Fielder, says the toddlers were leaning into social-emotional skills.

“Our toddlers enjoyed the Built by People unit. They created train tracks using paint and tape. We had great lessons on taking turns and sharing. They were building structures with blocks and working together. We all know that sharing and taking turns can be difficult for our toddlers (and some adults too!).”

Meanwhile, Dashaba says, “the toddler 2s are always eager to show the world their counting skills! They enjoyed adding, removing and counting cotton balls from bowls, and of course, counting together!” But the learning didn’t stop there! According to Dashaba, “the students were introduced to some new vocabulary words: envelope, delivery, and mailbox. The children were able to identify all areas of the classroom to create a neighborhood map. They used the map to deliver the mail to the areas on the map. The students discussed their favorite stores they see in their neighborhood. They all agreed on Pizza Shop, Chinese Stores, McDonald’s, and Dollar Tree!”

There was a food need during February which, Center Deputy Director Brandon Furrowh says, was overcome with the help of our Lutheran Church family.

*“Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center supported multiple families for February. Families were elated that the food options expanded beyond pasta and dry goods into meat, eggs, and milk. Participants of the (Center’s) food closet this month were able to make full meals for their families, thanks to the generous donations from caring individuals at the Lutheran churches who heard the need and decided to help.”*

*Finally, the Hilltop Center’s wide ranging enrichment programs will continue this spring. Brandon says they resumed on March 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*“This rotation of enrichment will include cooking classes, DJ workshops, and Bible Nights (a play on summer’s traditional Vacation Bible School). Students registered for Bible Nights will receive their own Bible Study Workbook for Kids, a resource that includes lessons, interactive activities, quizzes, and thought-provoking questions to promote their growth in faith.”*

*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, 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, Kelly Krapf, Trudy Gilgenast, Carol Goodman, Tony Calvarese, David Kenney, Cathy Snyder, Allison Hewitt, Jeannine Denzler

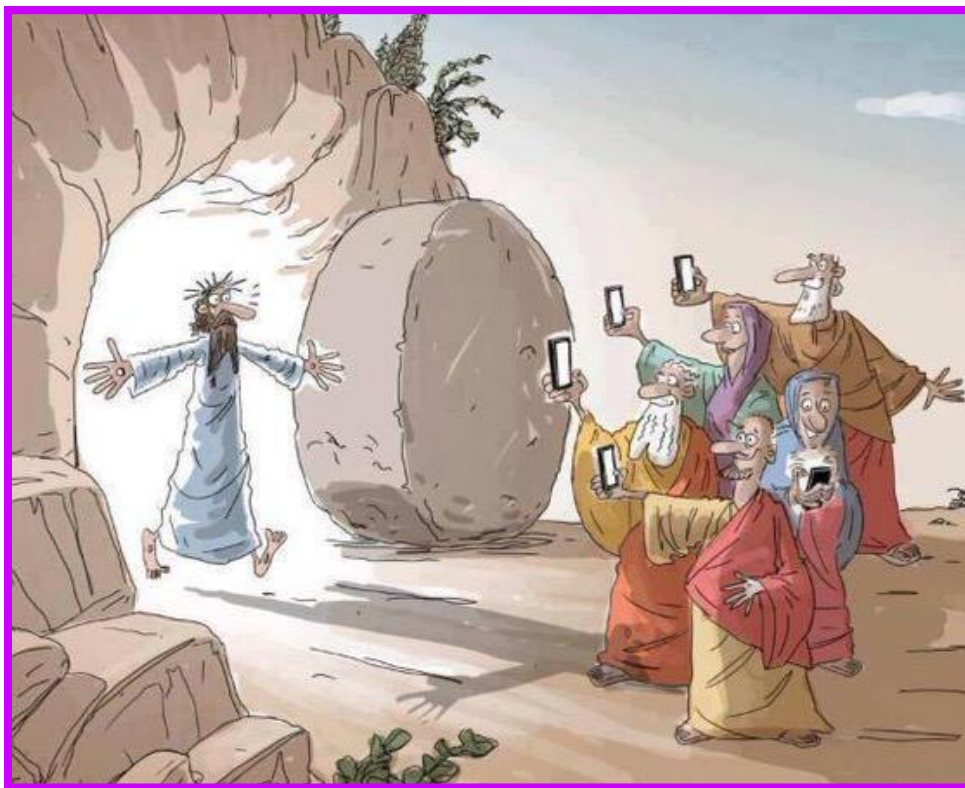
***We Pray for our Loved Ones:*** *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Ruth DiDonato**, family 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; **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; **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; **Rory Manhard**, granddaughter of Suzanne Bradley; **Paul Throne**, brother of Pam Brenneman



Shelly Meador	4/1	Jennifer Florschutz	4/16
Jane Newcomer	4/2	Dawn Downes	4/18
Grant Meador	4/4	Robert Gibble	4/18
Paul Stadelberger	4/4	Noelle Obara	4/20
Joann Stevens	4/4	Patrick Bailey	4/21
Trevor Freburger	4/6	Benjamin Cookson	4/21
Lisa Kenney	4/7	Benjamin Swift	4/21
Rev. Patrick Downes	4/8	John Lion	4/21
Wendy Davis	4/9	Jeff Kelty	4/24
Avalon Sparrow	4/9	Jeannine Denzler	4/25
Matthew Sanderson	4/9	Tobi Litterst	4/26
Rebecca Litterst	4/12	Mary Duncan	4/27
Brea Stirk	4/12	Elise Bardenhagen	4/28
Gregory Oesterbo	4/13	Molly Grieder	4/30
Yvonne Cilento	4/15	Sal Morabito	4/30
Pat Spae	4/16		

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  
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