

ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5320 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808
302-239-2100
www.stphilips.us

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

November 15, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

How Good It Is to Worship the Lord!!….Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. We pray that you would sense Christ's presence among us as we open our spirits to God.

If You Are Visiting with Us Today …Welcome!! Please be so kind as to sign our guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor as you leave. We ask everyone to sign the red fellowship pads as they are passed down the pew. Only visitors need to put their address and phone number. Additionally, in your pew rack, there is a bible. We believe we are called not only to proclaim God's Word, but to give it away. So, should you need a copy of God's Word, we invite you to take a bible as a gift from our congregation.

Nursery Care: Jesus said, "Let the little children come." So, living in our baptismal promises, we welcome and encourage children to worship with us. However, we understand that children often wiggly during the service, so if you so desire, parents are invited to go for a walk in the narthex or to take children (thru age 4 years) to the nursery, which is in the room just off the narthex.

Ministers
The People of St. Philip's
Senior Pastor
Rev. Patrick V. Downes
Associate Pastor
Rev. Amy Wright
Organist /Music Director
Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO
Director of Choir Ministry
Dr. Lauren Conrad
Office Assistant
Lisa Kalinowski

Council Officers & Members:
President……..Amanda DeWeese
Vice President……..Mary Kay LaRue
Treasurer ……..Teri Suddard
Secretary…….. Rebecca Bardenhagen
Donna Daugherty
Tom Gustaitis
Michael Imgarten
David Kenney
Rebecca Litterst
Kate McGovern
Debbi Miller
Steve Nkurlu
Jim Stevens

Sunday Morning Schedule
8:00 A.M. Worship Service in Sanctuary
9:15 A.M. Small Groups, Youth Group Breakfast Club in the Youth Room and Christian Education for all ages.
10:30 A.M. Worship Service in Sanctuary
** Holy Communion Celebrated Each Week at Both Worship Services

Scan Here for Digital Copy of this Bulletin

Church Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

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The Order of Worship

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - November 15, 2026

The Prelude *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" P. Manz*

* The Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*** The Gathering Hymn** *"Christ, Be Our Light"* *(Hymn is on the Next Page ►)*

*Indicates for all who are able to please stand

*** The Gathering Hymn** *"Christ, Be Our Light"* **ELW 715**



*** The Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*** Kyrie** *(Kyrie Eleison is "Lord Have Mercy")*



Verses (Sung by Congregation)

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. (Refrain)

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. (Refrain)

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, Let us pray to the Lord. (Refrain)

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, Let us pray to the Lord. (Refrain)

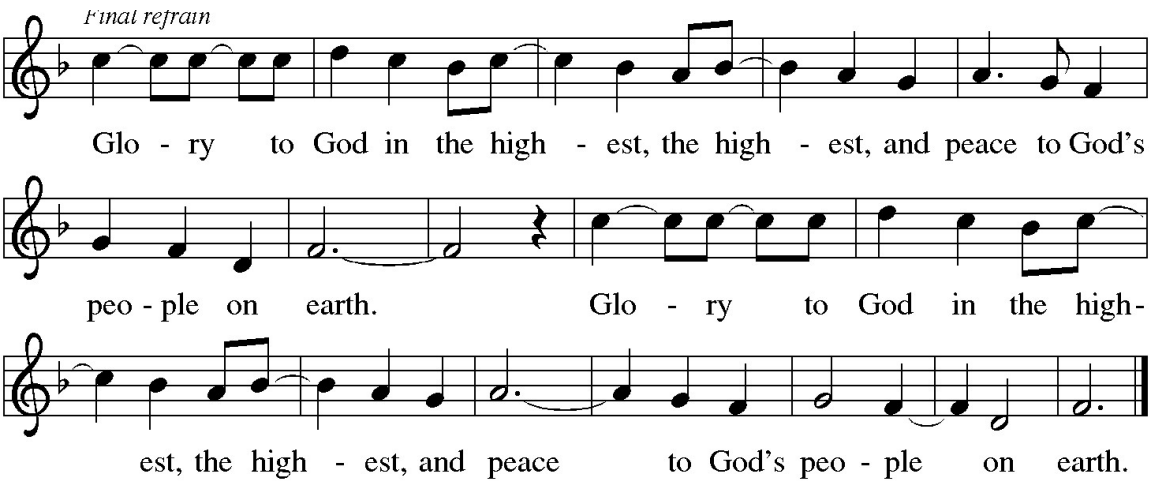
*** Hymn of Praise** *("Glory to God")*



(Hymn of Praise Continues on the Next Page ►)



(Hymn of Praise concludes on the Next Page ►)



* Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us pray . . . Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Choir Anthem

"Glory in God's Love" Martin *St. Philip's Chancel Choir*

The Old Testament Lesson

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.'
13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

(The Old Testament Lesson concludes on the Next Page ►)

15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 90:1-8, 12*

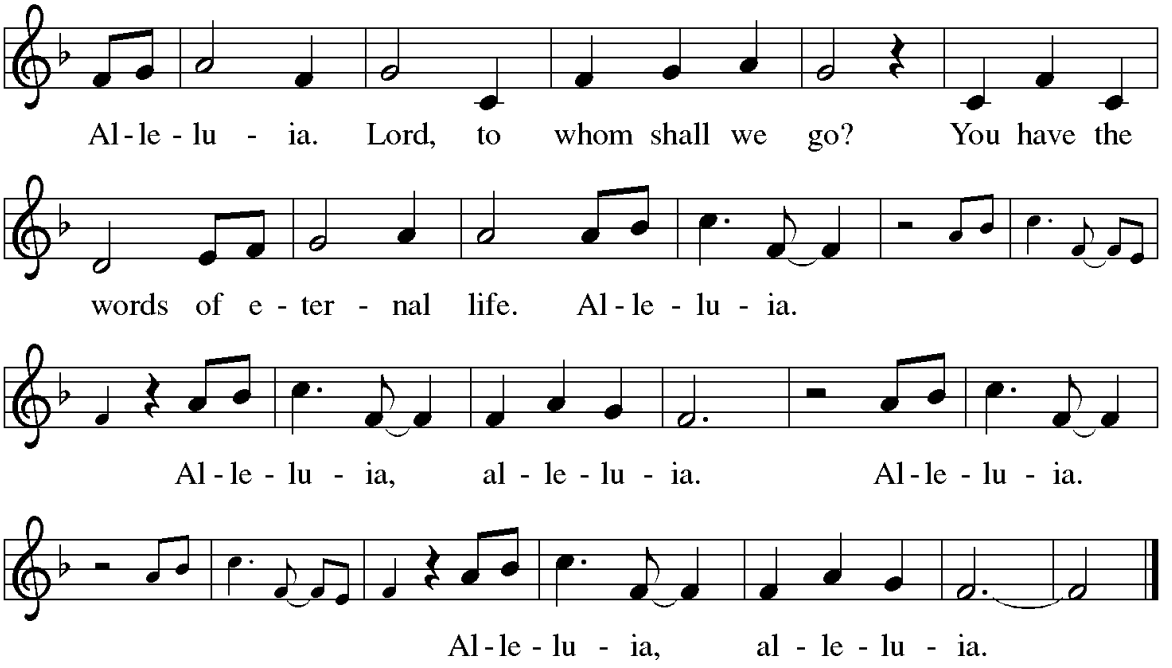
1 Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
3 You turn us back to dust, and say,
'Turn back, you mortals.'
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
12 So teach us to count our days that
we may gain a wise heart.

The New Testament Lesson *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like
a thief in the night. [3]When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will
come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4]But
you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5]for you are all children
of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6]So then, let us not fall
asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; [7]for those who sleep sleep at night, and
those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put
on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has destined
us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us, so
that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another
and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia"*



*** The Gospel Lesson** *Matthew 25:14-30*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus continued teaching his disciples about the Kingdom of Heaven saying to them:]

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property
to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and
traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two
talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a
hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves
came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I
have made five more talents." 21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the
joy of your master." 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you
handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." 23 His master said to him,
"Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you
in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 24 Then the one who had received the
one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where
you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and
hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." 26 But his master replied, "You wicked
and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not
scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would
have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the
one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an
abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for
this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon and Growing in the Gospel *(Growing in the Gospel are at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and is for children through 3rd Grade.)*

The Sermon *Rev. Amy Wright*

*** Hymn of the Day** *"Lord of Light"* **ELW 688**



(The Hymn Continues on the Next Page ►)



* The Prayers of the Church

Congregation responds to each petition with: **Hear our Prayer.**

* Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors in whatever way you are mutually comfortable with: handshakes, hugs, elbow bumps, "peace signs," or words of peace and grace.

Greetings and Announcements

At this time the pastors will lift up some of the relevant events/happenings in the congregation. Offering plates are no longer passed around. Instead the offering plate is near the baptismal font. At some point this morning you may deposit your offering in the offering plate or you may continue to mail, automatically deposit, or use the website to continue your generous giving. Thank you so much for all you do for the ministry we are all a part of here at St. Philip's.

* Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray . . . God of life,

C: you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.

* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

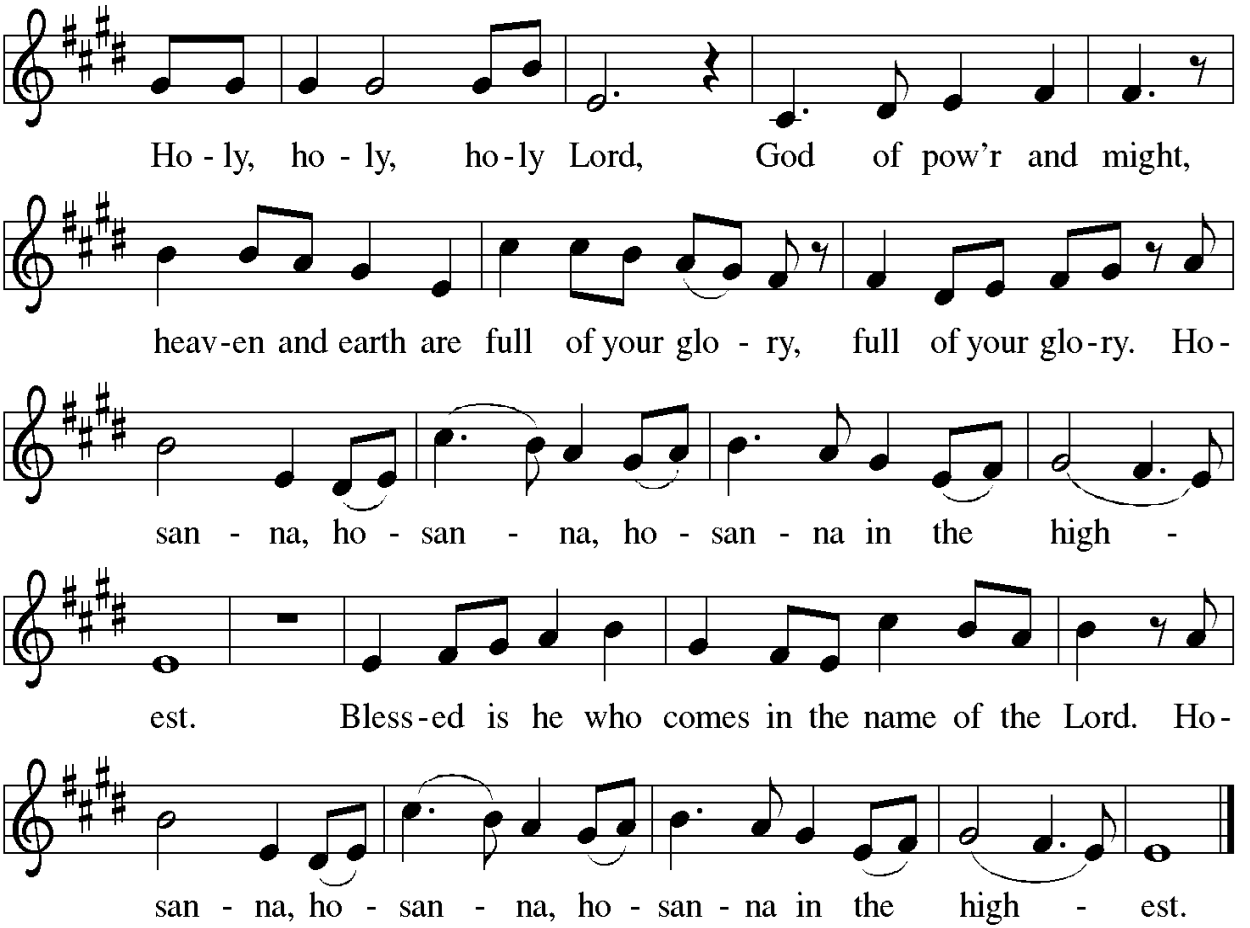
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places . . . We praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise.

* Sanctus *("Holy, Holy, Holy")*



P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in the remembrance of me.Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.Do this in the remembrance of me.

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, together we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P: Remembering Christ's salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give you thanks, O Lord God Almighty, and we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving your grace and mercy, may be formed to live as your holy people sharing our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

* The Lord's Prayer

P: In confident hope of God's love and saving grace, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

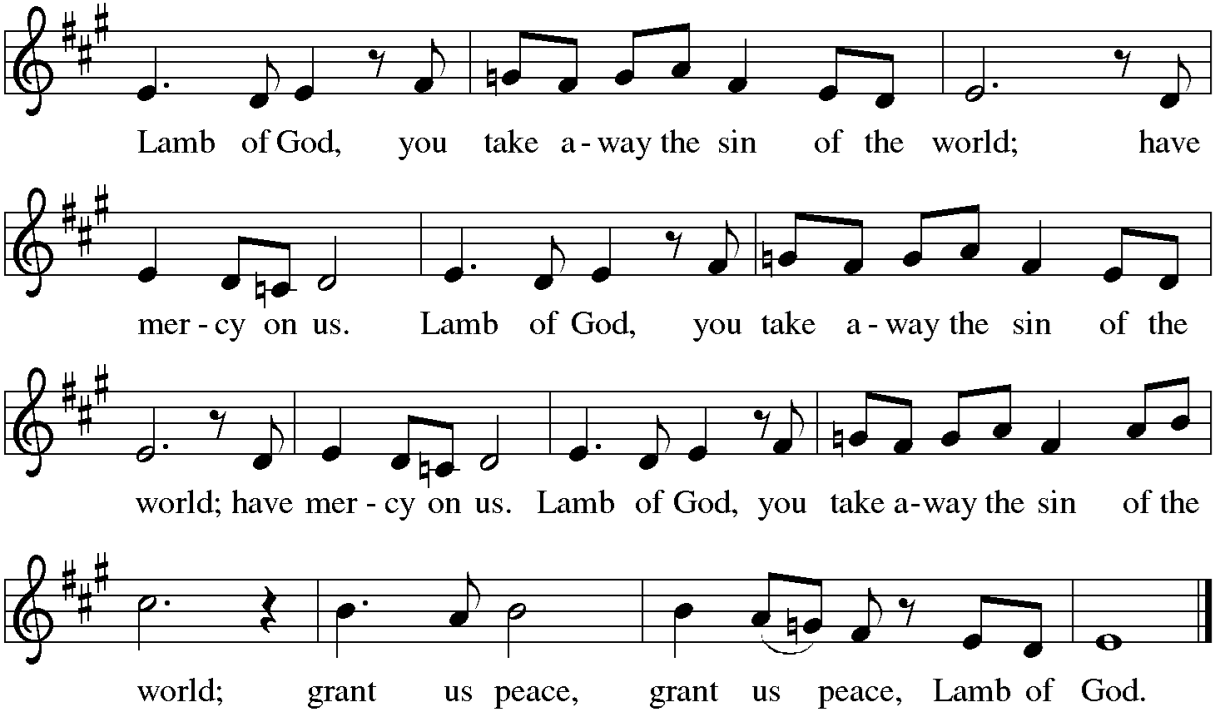
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C: **Thanks be to God**

The congregation may be seated.

Agnus Dei *("Lamb of God")*



The Reception of Communion

The pastors will give direction on how communion will proceed this morning. Remain seated until directions are given.

Communion Distribution Hymns

As you are waiting to come forward to receive the bread and the wine and/or after you are seated again, we ask you to join us in singing together the following hymns during the distribution of the Eucharist.

Communion Hymn *"Light Dawns on a Weary World"* **ELW 726**



Communion Hymn *"Deep River"*



* Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

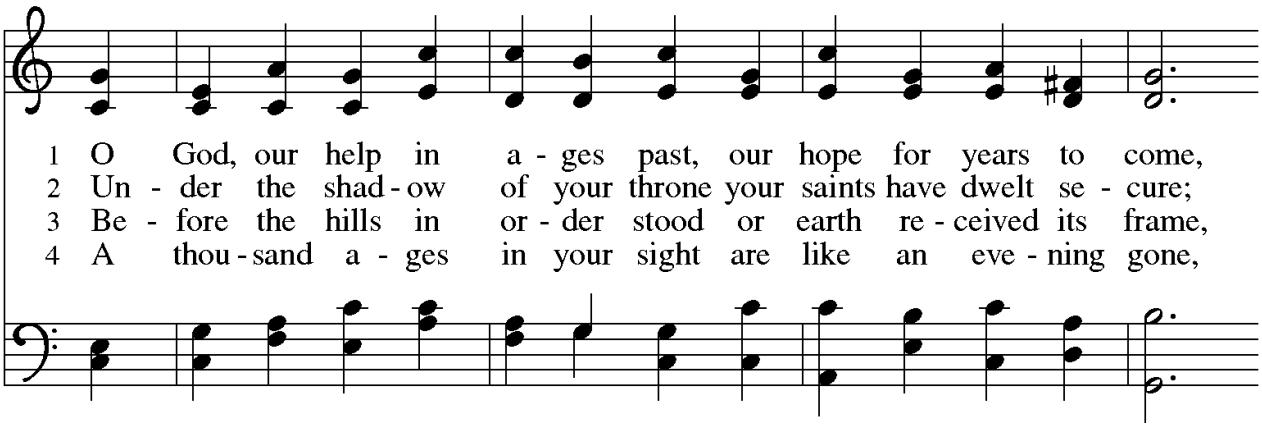
* Blessing

P: May the Lord Bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

* Closing Hymn

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" **ELW 632**



(The Hymn continues on the Next Page ►)



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

*** Sending**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *"Fantasie-Toccata: Wat God doet is welgedaan" J. Mulder*

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, Gary Kennedy, Yvonne Cilento, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, Mark Davis, David Nevins, Kelly Krapf, Trudy Gilgenast, Allison Hewitt, Cynthia Hamlin, Nancy Zinnato, John Frink, Carol Oesterbo, Linda Spivak, Chuck Cory, Lamont Smith, Jackie Kyle, Dave Hauser, Lee Derr

***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 Simpers; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son and **Quintin Barrett**, grand-nephew of Yvonne Cilento; **Lee Craig**, friend of The Budds**; Diane Balinski** & **Debra Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Norman Richards** & **Phyllis Mensinger**, family of Mark Davis; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **Anna Longo**, mother 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 of Anne Hamilton; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak; **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; **Bob Gilmour,** friend of John and Jodi Newcomer: **Kevin Hewitt**, brother of Rebecca Litterst; **Rory Manhard**, granddaughter of Suzanne Bradley; **Kate Drake**, granddaughter of Shirley Rash; **Martin Page**, friend of the Stevens Family; **Joann Post,** Aunt of Kelly Sparrow; **Victoria Frattarola,** granddaughter of Virginia Frattarola; **Heidi Bennett**, daughter of Hilde Crothers; **Tyler Grube**, grandson of Edna Basilio; **Angelina Bezotosno**, friend of Helen Pierce

What's Happening At St. Philip's

Today's Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of my sister, Elise Bushman, by Anita Sterling.

Commitment Sunday was on October 11th!! If you did not get a chance to return your financial and time and talent commitment forms, please be sure to return them to the church office or offering plate in the next couple weeks. Thank you for all the ways we come together to make disciples, praise God, and serve the community together.

2027 Chancel Flower Dedications - Every year we provide members the chance to signup to dedicate chancel flowers (we used to call them altar flowers when they sat on the altar, but now they are on the shelf in the chancel area) in memory or in honor of loved ones. In order to make it easy for you to signup for flowers for the 2026 Calendar Year, below is a link to a signup genius form that will allow you to dedicate flowers for the coming year**. The flowers for 2027 will be $60**. You will pick the date you want to sign-up for and then it will ask you to type in your dedication and then click the submit button. Like last year, we are asking that you please mail in your payment for the flowers AT THE TIME YOU FILL OUT THIS DEDICATION SIG-NUP. The only reason we are asking this is that many people forget that they signed up and then forget to send the money in. Altar Guild is trying to avoid coming after the dedication money months afterwards. Thank you so much. To make a dedication, click here**:**
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9AE29A57-66547178-flower

Making Disciples

Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!! If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **December 10th 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.

The Daytime Women's Book Group's next book for **November 17th** it is *The Winemaker s Wife.* On **December 15th** at **Noon**, we will have a Christmas Potluck in the Fellowship Hall. Weather permitting, September will meet at Gigi Mueller's house.

The next Women, Wine and Whine will be **Saturday, November 21st at 1:00 pm** at Harvest Ridge Winery. All are invited. This will be our last one until January!

Making Disciples (continued...)

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 **December 9th in Room #031**. New people are welcome!! Contact Sharon Kittle. A **second group** is meeting Sundays after church. **The next meeting will be TBD**. Grab a lunch and come over to the Mueller's after the 10:30 Worship Service. Discussion will start around **Noon**. All are welcome to join this great conversation. Questions, ask Gigi Mueller.

GRACE AND GRUB - This is a group open to everyone of *every age* on the *second Tuesday of every month from 11:30am-1:00pm.* Our next gathering will be our Annual Christmas Luncheon. Come join us on **Tuesday, December 8th from 11:30 am-1:00 pm**. Lunch will be provided. See you there!

PUB THEOLOGY!! 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! You won't regret it. Join us: **Thursday, November 19th, 2026**! We will be meeting at Chuck Lager from 6:30-8:30pm. See you there!! All are welcome.

Looking for a Way to Serve Without a Weekly Commitment? Consider joining our **Growing in the Gospel** volunteer team! We're looking for volunteers to help lead these lessons, which provide additional teaching of the Gospel message for our youth during the sermon at each **10:30 a.m. service**. Serving with Growing in the Gospel is flexible and easy: 1. Choose the dates that work best for you. 2. Lessons and all necessary supplies are provided. 3. No weekly commitment is required. Interested or want to learn more? We'd love to have you join us! Please contact Pastor Amy, Pastor Patrick, Sharon Kittle or Kelly Sanderson for more information.

There is a New Daytime Women's Small Group meeting at church on the second Tuesday of every month at 10am. Beth Molnar is leading the group. Discussion includes questions, thoughts and feelings about aspects of the Christian faith. The group members determine the topics for the meetings. Contact Beth Molnar, if you have questions or are interested in joining.

Making Disciples (continued...)

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. Upcoming reads: For **December 11th** will be our annual - POETRY and Cookie Exchange; **January 8th** - *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi, David Morse, et al. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Downes or Donna Daugherty. Be sure to Mark your calendars . . . We hope you will join us. Everyone is welcome!

Praising God

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.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service is Wednesday, November 25, 2026 at **7:00 p.m.** This year we will gather at Limestone Presbyterian Church, 3201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE. **Happy Thanksgiving To All!**

Advent Vespers Devotional Service - In this season of peace and joy, join us for a time of rest and peace in the middle of each week. On **Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th and 16th we'll gather in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m.** for Soup and Bread Dinner (a sign up poster to volunteer to bring soup or bread will be in the narthex soon), and **then at about 7:00 p.m.** we will move to the sanctuary for the "Unfailing Light" Vespers Service. Come be refreshed by food and fellowship with God and one another.

Advent Wreath Lighters Needed!! Believe it or not, Advent is coming quickly. Advent is the liturgical season of preparation leading up to the birth of our Savior at Christmas. It is a four week time when the themes of the season are waiting and hoping . . . it is all those things that make up our faith as people who live each day waiting for God to come, for the world to be transformed, for the things that are not right today to be made right. During this wonderful season, we light candles around the Advent Wreath as we wait and pray and turn our hearts toward God in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. As a tradition, we invite individuals and families to light the candles at each worship service. All are wel-come to sign up . . . I'll give you instructions . . . it's easy. Sign up early. If you or your family would like to do this, visit the Signup Genius by clicking here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-67157794-invitation

Praising God (continued..._

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 know if you are interested.

Serving the Community

Our Annual Thanksgiving Basket Collection Concludes Today. If you signed up to bring in food for our friends at Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center in Wilmington and our own St. Philip's Grocery Club families - those donations are due **TODAY**. Items can be dropped off at the marked area in the Narthex.

Food Insecurity continues to be a problem in our community! 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: **Shelf Stable Milk** – Again, the Dollar Store is a good source), **Cereal**, **Spaghetti (dry noodles), Peanut Butter, Baked Beans, Toilet Paper**. Thank you so much for your generosity!!

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!

HELP WITH MINOR REPAIRS! Are you retired and looking for a way to support St. Philip's work? you handy with tools and doing minor repairs and small building projects? Come join our group on the **3rd Thursday morning of each month, from 8:30 until ?**.a little fellowship and simple refreshments followed by an hour or two of "fixup" type project work around the church property. Contact Dave Thompson if you can help.

Care Kits for the Homeless are Available!! Have you ever wanted to help someone who was homeless but didn't want to give cash? We have care kits available - they can be found under the coat rack in the narthex. Consider picking up one or two to share with homeless persons you may encounter in your travels. Thank you to all who contributed items for the Care Kits. We will continue to welcome donations but, now have enough to make up 60 winter kits.

Serving the Community (continued...)

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. Free and open to the public, the group will meet on the **second Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on **December 8th at 1 p.m.** in Room #129. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

Woodland 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 (8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. currently) on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of each month *throughout the year*, weather permitting. Contact Mary or Phil Duncan for more information.

Pinners and Knotters will meet on **the third Wednesdays of each month.** Our next meeting is **November 18th in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM**. We have a number for projects ready to get under-way. Consider joining us for this important ministry. No special skill is required.

One of our Youth, Breanna Swift, is Hosting a 5K Walk Run to Benefit the Girls Dorm in Kenya - Saturday, December 5th - Can You Run/Walk or Just Help With the Day?? The event will be held on Saturday, **December 5th at 9 am at the John Dickinson High School** on Milltown Road. If you are interested in signing up to participate, click below. If you would like to help with the event with administrative or welcoming roles (great for those not interested in walking/running) contact Breanna Swift. See ad on the next page!

Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem in Pennsylvania!! Yes, St. Philip's is traveling to the Christkindlmarkt in Bethlehem PA on **Saturday, December 5**. Christkindlmarkt is one of the largest and most-attended Christmas markets in the nation. We have reserved a 31-passenger bus. The cost per person is $120, which includes bus transportation, bus driver tip, admission to Christkindlmarkt and buffet luncheon. Information and reservation forms are available in the narthex. Cash or check only. No electronic payments. All reservations must be received by November 22. We hope you will join us. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Amy or Janet Shechter.

Family Promise host dates: Tuesday, December 15 and Thursday, December 17 - Our next Family Promise host days are coming up on December 15 and 17! ***Volunteering our time*** is now the primary need in this ministry. Food is provided by the kitchen manager at the Family Promise facility. Our important role includes helping to prepare, serve, visit, and clean up. There are two shifts for each night we volunteer: 4:00 pm-6:00 pm and 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Please see the sign up poster in the narthex for more information.


All kids age 4 through 5th grade
ST PHILIP'S
KIDS CLUB
2026-2027
SIGN UP HERE!
POWERED BY THE SPIRIT.
MADE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
GALATIANS 5:22-23
LOVE
I care like Jesus.
JOY
I choose happiness.
PEACE
I am calm and trust God.
PATIENCE
I wait and don't give up.
KINDNESS
I treat others with care.
GOODNESS
I do what is right.
FAITHFULNESS
I can be counted on.
GENTLENESS
I am caring and kind.
SELF-CONTROL
I make good choices.
GROWING STRONGER IN FAITH.
MAKING THE WORLD BETTER.
ONE FRUIT AT A TIME.
ST PHILIP'S KIDS CLUB
CONTACT ANNA GRIEDER OR PASTOR AMY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS


THE JOLLY JINGLE
5K
RUN
& WALK

CHILDREN'S *Advent* WORKSHOP

ST PHILIP'S
CHRISTIAN ED WING

DEC | 6th | 9:15AM-10:15AM

ALL AGES WELCOME

INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!

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





THE YOUTH GROUP'S ANNUAL

BABYSITTING NIGHT

5-9PM

FRIDAY, DEC. 4TH

YOUTH GROUP of St. Philip's Lutheran Church

RESERVE YOUR CHILD'S SPOT TODAY BY EMAILING PR. AMY!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR YOUTH GROUP!


ROCK & ROLL
CONTEMPORARY
A CLASS EXPLORING FAITH, CULTURE, AND THE MUSIC THAT SHAPES US
Extra Shows Added Through November 15th
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2026
FAITH
JOIN US FOR THIS EXCITING CLASS!


Join us for the New Adult Class Running
November 22nd through December 20th
INCARNATION
REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS
A Video Series From Adam Hamilton

Poinsettia Order Form



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

If you wish to order poinsettias this year, please fill out the form below by Sunday, December 13th and return to the church office, drop it in the offering plate, or use this link: https://forms.gle/JXsmbb2aGADY69fA7

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

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

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

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

Name: _____ Phone _____

Number of Poinsettias @ $25.00 Each _____

Dedication:

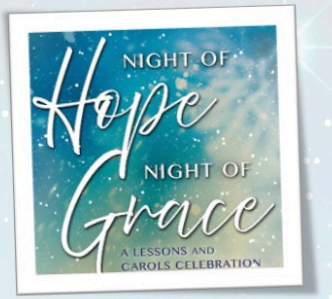
In honor of:_____

In memory of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Annual Christmas Cantata

December 13, 2026



7:00 PM

Come join us in the joy of the season!

A cookie and cocoa reception will follow.

Diamond State Concert Band
Thursday, December 10th, 2026
at 7:00 p.m.

DIAMOND STATE
CONCERT BAND
EST. 1976

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A Christmas Concert - Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band
Thursday, December 17th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band

St. Philip's Christmas Schedule

Advent Vespers Service Times
Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th, and 16th
6:30 p.m. Soup and Bread Dinner
7:15 p.m. Evening Vespers
****

Christmas Concert
Diamond State Concert Band
Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.
****

St. Philip's Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata
Night of Hope, Night of Grace - A Lessons and Carols Celebration
Sunday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.
Cookies and Hot Chocolate Reception to follow
****

Christmas Concert
Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band
Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.
****

The Longest Night Healing Service
A Winter Solstice Evening Service of Healing
Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:30 p.m.
****

Christmas Eve Services
Family Worship Service with Holy Communion
6:30 p.m.
Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion
8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

THOSE WHO SERVE

PRESIDING MINISTER	Rev. Patrick V. Downes	
PREACHER	Rev. Amy Wright	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Dr. Stephen Benscoter CAGO	
CHOIR DIRECTOR/VOCALIST	Dr. Lauren Conrad	
ASSISTING MINISTER	Teri Suddard	(8:00 a.m.)
	Gigi Mueller	(10:30 a.m.)
LAY READER	John Newcomer	(8:00 a.m.)
	Pat Colucci	(10:30 a.m.)
USHERS	Marty Budd and Sharon Kittle	(8:00 a.m.)
	Diana Lonhenry and Pam Sheffer	(10:30 a.m.)
GREETERS	Marty Budd and Sharon Kittle	(8:00 a.m.)
	Diana Longhenry and Pam Sheffer	(10:30 a.m.)
ACOLYTE	Luke DeWeese	(10:30 a.m.)
GROWING IN THE GOSPEL	Liz Freburger	

THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Sunday, November 15 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	*Guidepost Newsletter Articles Due Today!!* Worship Service at St. Philip's (*Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day)* Large Group in the Fellowship Hall Kids Club in the Christian Ed Wing Youth Breakfast Club in the Youth Room Worship Service at St. Philip's (*Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day)*
Monday, November 16	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room
Tuesday, November 17	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting Delmarva Conference Pericope Meeting in Room #031 Daytime Book Group in Room #127
Wednesday, November 18	8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Woodland Restoration Crew in the Back Yard Pinners and Knotters in the Fellowship Hall Environmental Stewardship Com. Mtg. in Room #031
Thursday, November 19	6:30 p.m	Pub Theology at Chuck Lagers
Friday, November 20	TBD	Youth Group Departs for Synod Middle/High School Retreat
Sunday, November 22 Christ the King Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. TBD	Worship Service at St. Philip's (*Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day)* Large Group in the Fellowship Hall Kids Club in the Christian Ed Wing Youth Breakfast Club in the Youth Room Worship Service at St. Philip's (*Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day)* Youth return from Synod Middle/High School Retreat