



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."*

December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Advent

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 wiggle 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.....Gerry Butler

Vice President.....Amanda DeWeese

TreasurerTeri Suddard

Secretary.....Liz Freburger

Coleman Bye

Carol Johnson

David Kenney

Mary Kay LaRue

John Longo

Debbi Miller

Dave Porter

Mike Rosen

Jim Stevens

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00 A.M. Worship Service in Sanctuary

10:30 A.M. Worship Service in Sanctuary

** Holy Communion Celebrated Each Week at Both Worship Services

Church Office Hours:

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

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The Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent - December 22, 2024

The Prelude

"Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland" BuxWV 211 D. Buxtehude

* 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: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and our neighbors.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: God of all time,

C: **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes in glory. Amen**

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose Day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

* The Gathering Hymn

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Next Page ►



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Glo - ri - a!

* 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.**

* Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P: During the season of Advent, we watch and wait for Christ's coming! And so we gather at this evergreen wreath to light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.
- P: Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. It is the Sunday of Love. We light this fourth candle as a remembrance that the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, showed the world what love truly looked like. It is a love that sets principles aside if it means treasuring the otherness of each individual; it is a love that forgives; a love that is self sacrificing. That is the love that Christ showed us reflecting the love of our heavenly father. And it is the love we are called to show one another.
- C: **Come Emmanuel, Come.**
- P: Hear the words of love spoken by God in Isaiah: *The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.*
- P: Let us pray . . . God of hope, Prince of peace, Jubilee Judge, and Lord of love, your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.
- C: **Amen.**

(The Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath, the Candle of Love is Lit as We Sing Verses seven and eight of the Advent Hymn on the Next Page ►)

*** Advent Hymn**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257



7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cor - ner - stone that
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive



binds in one; re - fresh the hearts that long for you;
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly exile here



Re - store the bro - ken, make us new. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
un - til the Sun of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*** Prayer of the Day**

A: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

A: Let us pray . . . Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Choir Anthem

"Like a Child, I Wait" Schram

St. Philip's Chancel Choir

The Old Testament Lesson *Micah 5:2-5a*

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Reading *Luke 1:46b-55*

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ **for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.**

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ **He has shown strength with his arm;**

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ **he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ **according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'**

The New Testament Lesson *Hebrews 10:5-10*

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God”

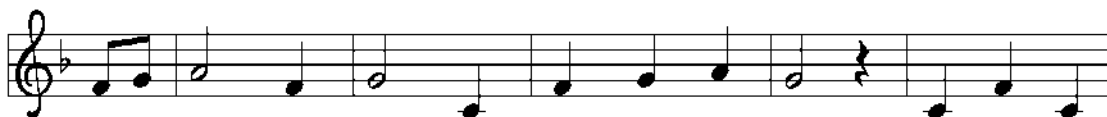
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’

⁸When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

* **The Gospel Lesson**

Luke 1:39-45

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke the first chapter.

C: **Glory to you O, Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

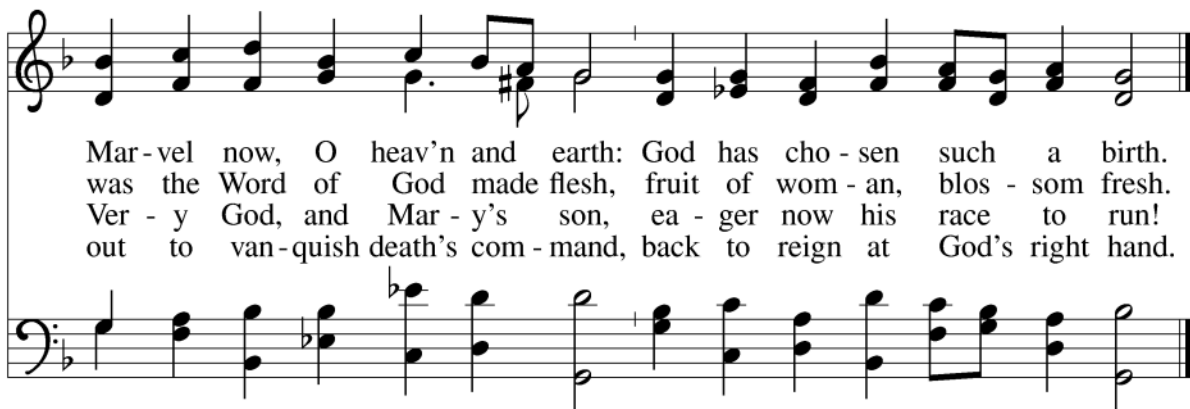
Children's Sermon

The Sermon

Rev. Amy Wright



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

* Apostles' Creed

P: Responding to the good news of God's grace, let us confess our faith together.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit

**the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* The Prayers of the Church

*Congregation responds to each petition with: **Your mercy is great.***

* 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 . . . Savior of the nations, come.

C: **Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith would shine ever new and our lives reveal your 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")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm. With thanksgiving we remember that:

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 for 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 for the remembrance of me.

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying:

C: Come Lord Jesus

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us – this bread, this cup, these people – Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world. Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord:

C: Come Holy Spirit

P: Make us joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory. Even now a voice is crying the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord. For all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** The Lord's Prayer**

P: Joined together by the Holy Spirit, 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: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

C: Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

("Lamb of God")



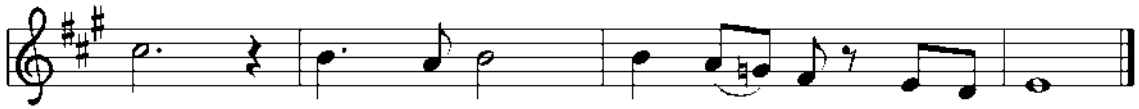
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, 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

"Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly"



1 Sing of Mar - y, pure and low - ly, vir - gin
2 Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, in the
3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; glo - ry



moth - er, wise and mild. Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, who be -
home at Naz - a - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry love en -
be to God the Son; glo - ry be to God the Spir - it; glo - ry



came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of fair - est moth - er, God the
dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the love he gave her, though he
to the Three in One. From the heart of bless - ed Mar - y, from all



Lord who came to earth, Word made flesh, our ver - y
went forth from her side, forth to preach, and heal, and
saints the song as - cends, and the church the strain re -



broth - er, takes our na - ture by his birth.
suf - fer, till on Cal - va - ry he died.
ech - oes un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na - tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray . . . God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

* Blessing

P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. And may Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

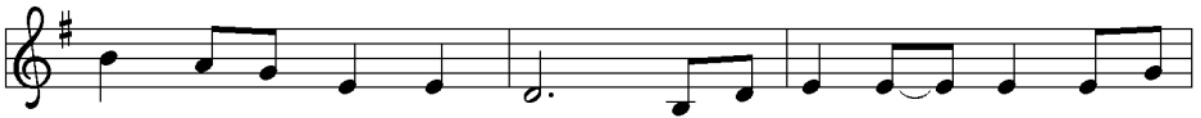
* Closing Hymn

"Canticle of the Turning"

ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



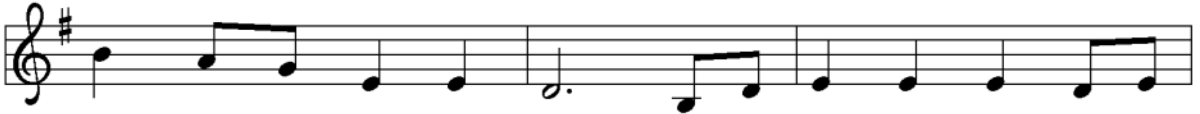
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

*** Sending**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Rejoice, Rejoice" D. Lasky

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:

Ron Henry, Judi Parsons, John & Barb Williams, Charles & Ruth Bowles, Lois Hardy, Carol Ruckle, Sharon Smith, Louise James, Helga Kissell, Bob O'Brien, Sherry Thompson, Eleanor Georgiana, Dave Frampton, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Lynn Pouser, Bev Reedy, Elizabeth Stirk, Paul & Barbara Stadelberger, Jeff Stirk, Charlie Boss, Debra Gelesh, Richard Braun, Ellen Lenker, Janette Saxton, Phyllis Bolgiano, Donna Daugherty, Yvonne Cilento, Shelly Meador, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, John Reichley, Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pysher, Suzanne Bradley

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; Sgt. Tyler Harris**, nephew of

Susan Mack; **Ruth DiDonato, Family of Earl & Irene Meyer, Christina Ruble & Family**, family of Linda Burkum; **Emily Ruckle & Tina Davis**, family of Carol Ruckle; **John & Carly Hoeni**, family of Lynn Muller; **Beckie McNelly**, sister of Bob Gibble & Barb Williams; **Lou Cookson**, father of Nick Cookson; **Beth Cookson**, mother of Nick Cookson; **Dorothy Owens**, sister of Ruth Henry; **Stuart Emerson & Family**, friends of the Swift Family; **Jacob Buckworth & Dawn Cupsie**, grandson & daughter of Lamont & Sharon Smith; **Donald Oesterbo, Jr.**, son of Carol Oesterbo; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simperts; **Mary Jane Myers**, mother of Mark Myers; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son of Yvonne Cilento; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott, & **Lee & Patricia Craig**, friends of The Budds; **David Martin, Diane Balinski, Debra Jennings, & Barney Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Jermaine & Joslyn Sanders**, friends of Nancy Zinnato; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family of Mark & Marge Davis; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **John, Sr. & Anna Longo**, parents of John Longo; **Lew & Donna Longhenry**, parents & **Brad Oliver**, brother-in-law of Bryan Longhenry; **The Family of Robert Schuh**, family of Diana Longhenry; **Martin Page & Family**, friends of Mike Rosen; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Alistair Black**, grandson of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Mike & Jeanie Kelly**, friends, & **Family of Rosemary Herron**, Loved ones of Edna Basilio; **Carol Henzy**, sister & **Bill Molnar**, husband of Beth Molnar; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman; **Henry Houtmann**, grandson & **Doris S. & Kathleen K.**, friends of Anne Hamilton; **Frank Kulick**, brother of Ruth Bowles; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak; **Michele Levanduski**, Family of Paul Gelesh; **Kristi Barnett**, friend of Angela Klemens; **Rick Ricciardi**, brother of Nancy Warner; **Henry Jones**, father of Derrick Thompson, **Carla Solano and Family**, cousin of Bonnie Anderson; **Michelle Nevins**, wife of David Nevins; **Craig Florschutz**, husband of Jennifer Florschutz; **Mark Doyle**, friend of Harold and Sharon Holeman; **Mark & Jeanne Favreau**, family of Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pysher

What's Happening At St. Philip's

Today's Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jacqueline Sue Janssen, by Stephen Bencoter.

Every year we provide the members the chance to sign up to dedicate chancel flowers (we used to call them altar flowers when they sat on the altar, but now they are on the shelf in the chancel area) in memory or in honor of loved ones. In order to make it easy for you to sign up for flowers for the 2024 Calendar Year, below is a link to a sign up genius form that will allow you to dedicate flowers for the coming year. **The flowers for 2025 will be \$50.** You will pick the date you want to sign-up for and then it will ask you to type in your dedication and then click the submit button. Like last year, we are asking that you please mail in your payment for the flowers **AT THE TIME YOU FILL OUT THIS DEDICATION SIGNUP.** The only reason we are asking this is that many people forget that they signed up and then forget to send the money in. Altar Guild is trying to avoid coming after the dedication money months afterwards. Thank you so much. To make a dedication, click here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9AE29A57-52711374-flower#/>

Making Disciples

O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on Tuesday, January 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 **January 14th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** Amy Papili will be our speaker. She will be discussing Computer Safety!! Especially in this time when there are so many computer and internet scams, laws will be changing in 2025 regarding privacy and safety. Come to hear how to operate more safely online as things speed up with technology each year. Bring your own lunch and we'll provide the fellowship and learning. See you then!!

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. **Our next meeting is January 10th.** If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Downes or Donna Daugherty. Mark your calendars and plan to come . . . We hope you will join us. Everyone is welcome!

Women, Wine, and Whine - Just booked our next wine social gathering for Sunday afternoon, **January 19th, from 2 to 5 p.m., at Acadian Winery in West Grove.** There will be music!

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** that meets at St. Philip's will be **meeting, Sunday, January 12th at 6:30 p.m.** we will be studying the book of Parables. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. A **second group** that meets with the Mueller's will meet on **Sunday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mueller's home.** We are going to read Luke in one sitting ahead of time and discuss. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.

The Young at Heart Group will be meeting on **Saturday, January 18, 2025, 1:30-3 p.m.,** at Gigi's. New people are always welcome! Please RSVP to Gigi.

The Daytime Book Group will next meet on Tuesday, January 21st at 12:30 p.m. Our book for discussion is FROZEN RIVER, by Ariel Lawhon. February 18th will be MYSTERY OF MRS CHRISTIE, by Marie Benedict. March 18th will be HOMEFRONT, by Kristin Hannah, and April 15th is THE SILENT PATIENT.

Praising God

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 Louise James know if you are interested.

Serving the Community

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 **January 9th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in the Social Hall here at church. If you are interested in being a part or learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

Kenya Culture Night - Want to know more about Kenya and the Water is Life Kenya water project St. Philip's is sponsoring? The WILK Committee is hosting a Kenyan Cultural Night on **January 11 at 5:00-8:00pm.** All are welcome to gather beginning with a traditional dinner of beef stew and goat stew along with sides (please feel free to bring food along for yourself or children if you feel this may not be to your liking). Following dinner there will be an exciting night filled with singing, dancing, games, crafts and more! Please RSVP to let us know if you are coming so we can have enough food. **The deadline to signup is January 5th.**
To signup, use this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-53718961-wilk>

Serving the Community (continued...)

New Supplies needed for Care Kits for the Homeless. As the seasons are changing our winter kits need to be refreshed with new supplies. Please consider signing up below to help replenish supplies. Also, kits 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.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-53363560-homeless>

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: **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), **Mac & Cheese, Cereal, Canned Vegetables, Toilet Paper, Salt & Pepper, Crackers, Coffee, Tea Bags, Cake Mix/Frosting.** Thank you so much for your generosity!!

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 **January 14th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

Stephen Ministry Training - Have you ever thought about wanting to help people during their times of need but didn't know what to say or how to help? That is what Stephen Ministers do for us here at St. Philip's. If you might have interest in serving one another in that way, there will be a Stephen Ministry training class starting in January of 2025 and running through April. If you are interested in being a part or just in getting more information let Gigi Mueller (Stephen Leader) know.

Join the HABITAT RESTORATION CREW! The current project is removing invasive plants and vines from around the trees and in meadow areas. Upcoming work dates follow a **first Saturday, third Wednesday of each month** pattern, **10:00 a.m. to Noon** each day. Mark your calendars now!! Helpful tools to bring: Large loppers, large digging shovels, sturdy hand-held garden pruners, small bow or pruning saw, sturdy leather [or other thorn-resistant] gloves, leaf and grass rakes. Be sure to mark your personal tools. Contact Phil Duncan to let him know you are coming.

Serving the Community (continued...)

Family Promise - St. Philips Next Host Week: January 19th -25th Our next host week will be January 19-25. Sign up posters will be in the Narthex with menus listing food you can provide in late December. Below is a Sign-Up Genius link for those who are able to contribute non-perishable items.

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-54055916-family>

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Feel free to contact Rebecca Bardenhagen or Marty Budd with any questions.

SAUERKRAUT!! Make room in your freezer as **the Sauerkraut Sale started on Sunday, December 15th**, between and after services. We are holding the price at **\$3/bag**, but of course we will have our very popular **special which is 3 bags for \$10 . . . Hee hee!**



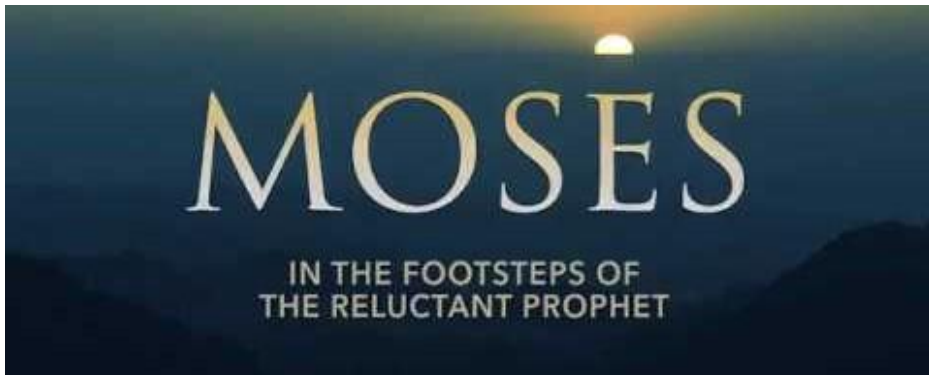
St. Philip's Christmas Eve Schedule

Christmas Eve Services

**Family Christmas Eve Worship Service
with Holy Communion
6:30 p.m.**



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



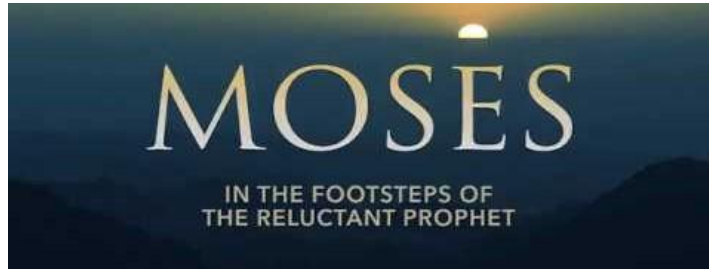
**Join us For A Special Winter Video Series Journey
Alongside the first Biblical Prophet, Moses**

On Sunday Mornings January 12 - February 23, 2024 at 9:15 am
Classes will be held in the Social Hall Led By Pastor Patrick
and are all about The Life and Impact of the Prophet, Moses.

The Birth of Moses
Two Moments that Defined the Man
The Exodus
The Ten Commandments
Lessons from the Wilderness
Don't forget . . . Pass it On
The Legacy of Moses

Everyone is invited to this class, whether you were registered for small groups
or not. This is a whole church experience.





Session 1 January 12th: The Birth of Moses

We know the story, but what were the significant details of Moses birth and raising?

Session 2 January 19th: Two Moments that Defined the Man

Moses may have been born an Israelite, but two things change the course of his life and the salvation history of an entire people,

Session 3: January 26th: The Exodus

The most significant event in the history of Moses' people.

Session 4 February 2nd: The Ten Commandments

Laws to be sure, but more a sense of commitment to each other.

Session 5 February 9th: Lessons from the Wilderness

What we do in life when we are "going nowhere."

Session 6 February 16th: Don't Forget . . . Pass it On

The events in the wilderness have shaped the Jewish People.

Session 7 February 23rd: The Legacy of Moses

The Enduring Impact of Moses on People of Faith

THOSE WHO SERVE

PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. Amy Wright

PREACHER

Rev. Patrick V. Downes

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO

CHOIR DIRECTOR/VOCALIST

Dr. Lauren Conrad

ASSISTING MINISTER

Diana Schneider

(8:00 a.m.)

Dawn Downes

(10:30 a.m.)

LAY READER

Bill LaRue

(8:00 a.m.)

Kim Longo

(10:30 a.m.)

USHERS

Dave and

Lisa Kenney

(8:00 a.m.)

John and

Ginny Lion

(10:30 a.m.)

GREETERS

Dave and

Lisa Kenney

(8:00 a.m.)

John and

Ginny Lion

(10:30 a.m.)

ACOLYTE

Ben DeWeese

(10:30 a.m.)

GROWING IN THE GOSPEL

No Growing in the Gospel this Week!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Grieder Family

(8:00 a.m.)

Downes Family

(10:00 a.m.)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

<p>Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i> <i>No Small Groups, Kids Club, or Youth Group Breakfast Club Today - All Christian Education will return on January 12th</i></p> <p>Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i></p> <p>Youth Group Decorating and Christmas Party</p>
<p>Monday, December 23</p>	<p>6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Chancel Choir in the Choir Room</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>The Church Office is closed today!</i></p> <p>Christmas Eve Family Service with Holy Communion</p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion</p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 25</p>		<p><i>Merry Christmas!!!</i></p>
<p>Thursday, December 26</p>		<p><i>The Church Office is Closed Today!</i></p>
<p>Sunday, December 29 First Sunday of Christmas</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i> <i>No Small Groups, Kids Club, or Youth Group Breakfast Club Today - All Christian Education will return on January 12th</i></p> <p>Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i></p>