



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."*

March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent

How Good It Is to Worship the Lord!!....Thank you for worshipping 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.....Amanda DeWeese

Vice President.....Mary Kay LaRue

TreasurerTeri Suddard

Secretary.....Liz Freburger

Coleman Bye

Donna Daugherty

Tom Gustaitis

Michael Imgarten

Carol Johnson

David Kenney

Debbi Miller

Dave Porter

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

Church Office Hours:

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

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The Order of Worship

First Sunday in Lent - March 9, 2025

The Prelude

“O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß” BWV 622 J.S. Bach

* 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

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” (Hymn is on the Next Page ►)

*Indicates for all who are able to please stand



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

* 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.**

* Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray . . . O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Choir Anthem *"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" Shackley St. Philip's Chancel Choir*

The Old Testament Lesson *Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Reading *Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16*

¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
² **will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'**

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
¹⁰ **no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.**

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
¹² **On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
¹⁴ **Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.**

¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.
¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

The New Testament Lesson *Romans 10:8b-13*

'The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart'
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus
is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For
one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is
saved. ¹¹The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' ¹²For there is
no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who
call on him. ¹³For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

* Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

* The Gospel Lesson

Luke 4:1-13

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

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

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", ¹¹and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' ¹²Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

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

The Sermon

Rev. Patrick V. Downes

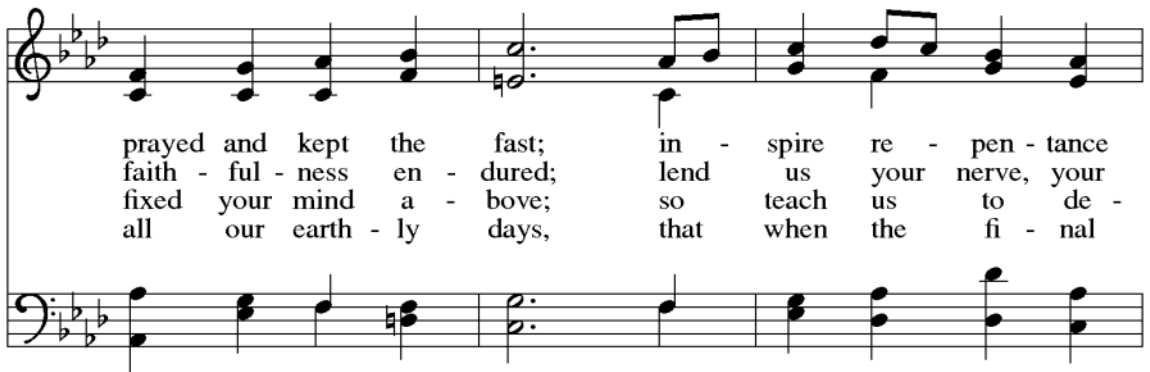
*** Hymn of the Day**

"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

ELW 319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

* 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 together . . . Generous God,

C: **you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. 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.**

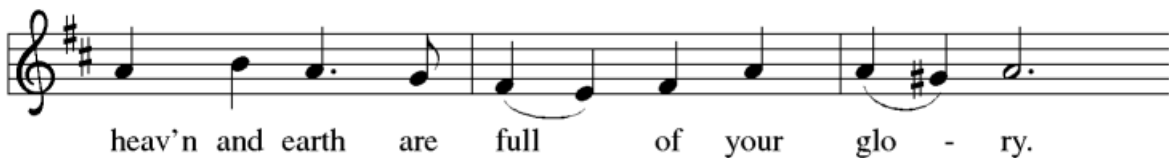
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 holy, Lord of hosts, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into the world, calling us to repent and to welcome the kingdom you bring. Tempted in every way as we are, he never sinned. Instead, he turned away from violence, teaching us the way of peace. He rejected power that corrupts, choosing instead to live as a servant among us. He did not turn stones into easy bread but instead offered us the bread of life - justice, freedom, health, unconditional love - so that we might never be hungry again. And showing the depth of your love, he offered us the cup of the new covenant, sealed in his blood.

We give thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died 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.

In this Lenten season, we rejoice that we share in his baptism, in his dying and rising again, and we look with hope for the kingdom of God in its fullness. Great is the mystery of the faith we confess together:

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

P: Gracious God, as your Spirit hovered over creation, as your Spirit descended like a dove on Jesus, your beloved Son, may your Spirit now hover over us, and descend on us and these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, and one with all who share this feast. Bind us in covenantal love to you and to one another in the church, that we may reach out to the world with justice, freedom, health, and unconditional love in Christ's name, until the promised day of your kingdom. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** The Lord's Prayer** *(Sung By the People of God)*

P: In confident hope of God's love and saving grace, let us sing in the words as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, which 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

P: God feeds the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation may be seated.

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.

The Reception of Communion

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

Communion Distribution Hymn

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

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ELW 325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

(The Hymn continues on the Next Page ►)

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Communion Hymn

"As the Winter Day Grow Longer"

1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
 2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
 3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,

(The Hymn continues on the Next Page ►)



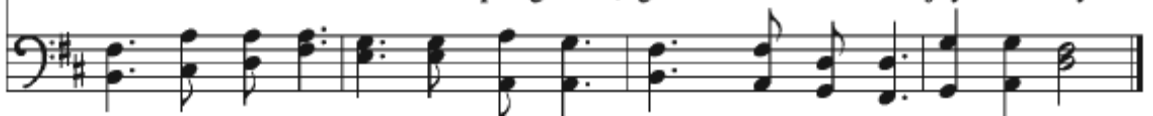
as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light —
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer —
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!



* Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray . . . Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

* Blessing

P: May God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, + bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

C: Amen

* Closing Hymn

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

ELW 326

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

(The Hymn continues on the Next Page ►)

The trail is found in des - ert and wĩnds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

*** Sending**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Chaconne in F (from King Arthur)" Z. 628 H. Purcell

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, Yvonne Cilento, Shelly Meador, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, Mark & Marge Davis, David Nevins, John Frink, Erica Miller, Vince Suddard, Meghan Newcomer and Family

We Pray for our Loved Ones: *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families; Sgt. Tyler Harris**, nephew of Susan Mack; **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; **Lou Cookson**, father & **Beth Cookson**, mother of Nick Cookson; **Dorothy Owens**, sister of Ruth Henry; **Stuart Emerson & Family**, friends of the Swift Family; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simpser; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son of Yvonne Cilento; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott, & **Lee Craig**, friend of The Budds; **Diane Balinski & Debra Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family & **Myron Davis**, brother of Mark & Marge Davis; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **John, Sr. & Anna Longo**, parents of John Longo; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Alistair Black**, grandson of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Carol Henzy**, sister of Beth Molnar; **Zoe Kenaley**, great-granddaughter of Vic Brick; **John Lehne**, friend of Carol Goodman; **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, **Craig Florschutz**, husband of Jennifer Florschutz; **Mark & Jeanne Favreau**, family of Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pysher; **Chuck Stirk**, son of Elizabeth Stirk, **John Stachowski and Family**, Friends of Tom Krapf

What's Happening At St. Philip's

Today's Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and dedicated in celebration of our 53rd Wedding Anniversary, by John and Ginny Lion.

Making Disciples

O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on **Tuesday, March 11th**. This group is geared towards retirees in the congregation that would like to engage in a time of food, fellowship, and light learning. The next meeting will be held **March 11th from 11:30 am to 1 pm**. We are excited to announce that our next presentation will be presented by Pr. Dave Mueller and Rabbi Peter Grumbacher as they talk about Christian and Hebrew scriptures. Lunch will be provided. See you there!

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. The next gathering is **Sunday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m.** We are now reading *A Week in the Life of a Greco Roman Women*. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. A **second group** that meets with the Mueller's will meet on **March 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the Mueller's home**. We will again be reading and discussing a book of Hebrews. Questions about Koinonia? Contact Sharon Kittle.

The Daytime Book Group will next meet on **Tuesday, March 18th at 12:30 p.m.** We will meet in Room #127. Our book for discussion for March 18th will be *HOMEFRONT*, by Kristin Hannah, and April 15th is *THE SILENT PATIENT*. Any questions, contact Gigi Mueller. We will be meeting in Room #127!

Women, Wine, and Whine - Just booked our next wine social gathering for Sunday afternoon, **March 16th, from 2 to 5 p.m.**, at **Acadian Winery in West Grove**. Marty and Company will be performing. All are welcome!

Pub Theology - Martin Luther once said: "Whoever drinks beer, they are quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer! **Our next Pub Theology will be Thursday, March 20th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Chuck Lagers! Let us ring in the New Year together with beer and each other at Pub Theology! See you then! Cheers!

Making Disciples (Continued . . .)

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 March 14th** we'll be discussing *The End of Drumtime* by Hanna Pylväinen. For **April 14th (NOTE that this is a TUESDAY)** at 5:00 p.m. we will gather at River Rock Restaurant at the Westin by the Chase Center on the Riverfront. We'll enjoy dinner and then go to the New Castle County Reads presentation to hear the author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt speak about her book. **Also for April - Reader's Choice** - Since we already read the NCC Reads book, in April, read a book of your choice. We can talk about them at our May meeting and use this discussion to plan the next books through the fall of 2025. Then for **May 9th** we'll discuss *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult. On **June 13th** we'll discuss *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Alston. 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!

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.

MillCreek Ministerium Soup and Bread Lunches are being hosted here at St. Philip's Lutheran Church this year. Each Wednesday during Lent, we'll be gathering at Limestone Presbyterian Church along with our brothers in sisters in Christ throughout the MillCreek area for Worship and Lunch. Each week a different church takes a turn providing soup, bread, worship, and preaching. You are invited to join us for this wonderful Ecumenical experience each week. Services start at **noon March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd and April 9th.** Please join us!!

Lenten Devotional Booklets Are Now Available!!! The Lenten Season is upon us and as part of your Lenten discipline, you are invited to take one of the devotional booklets that the Worship and Music team has made available to you on the table in the narthex. Each day is a different scripture and prayer to guide you through the season.

Lenten Soup and Bread Dinners Return!! As part of our Lenten observance we will once again gather at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evenings, **March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd and April 9th** for Soup and Bread dinner followed by Evening Vespers in the Sanctuary. Our Vespers this year is the service entitled, "Taize' Lenten Vespers". If you'd like to provide soup/bread on any of the nights you can sign up in the narthex.

Praising God (Continued...)

Spring Healing Service – Spring is the season of new life and new beginnings for the planet as the dark and cold of winter subside and plants and animals (and even people to a degree) come out of hibernation and inactivity. Those themes are the same themes of the healing we seek from God. So, on **Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m.**, we'll gather in the sanctuary for a time of prayer and healing. All are welcome. If you have questions, see Pastor Patrick or Pastor Amy.

Invitation to Read the Passion on Palm Sunday!! Passion/Palm Sunday is April 13, 2025. A long standing tradition at St. Philip's has been to read the Passion of Jesus, from the Last Supper through the Crucifixion as we enter into Holy Week. We do this through a narrative reading. This year we'll be reading the Passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke. We are in need of five volunteers for each service to read the parts . . . there are big parts (Jesus/Narrator) and there are small parts (Pilate/Peter/etc.). We'll give you all the support you need. Don't worry, it is very, very easy!! I promise!! If you are interested in volunteering, please signup by clicking the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-55350289-palmpassion>

Serving the Community

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!!

Care Kits for the Homeless are Available!! 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.

Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!! If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **March 13th 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.

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. The group offers education, support, and the opportunity to connect with others in a similar situation. Free and open to the public, the group will meet on the **second Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on **March 11th at 1 p.m.** in Room #128. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

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.

Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!! If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **March 13th 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.

The annual Spring Clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, March 22nd from 8:30 am to noon. This year our work will again focus outside and there will be a variety of tasks. Bring your work gloves! We hope you can join us. Please contact Mark Myers with any questions.

Large Group Adult Forum - March 9th to April 13th
9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall
Conflicting Scripture Stories



What do we do when different stories in the bible conflict each other? If God is the way, THE TRUTH, and the life, what is the “Truth” when we are told two different things?

In this class, we’ll examine six examples of scriptural conflicts and we’ll learn how to understand the differences we encounter. By learning these things, we enrich and expand the meaning of God’s Word to us.

All are invited . . . No registration needed . . . No Homework to prepare each week. Just show up, meet new people, and enjoy yourself.



MISSION KIDS EVENTS

3/9 11:30-1pm

Mission Kids Get Messy
in the Fellowship Hall-
Lunch provided!



4/13 11:30-1pm

Easter Egg Hunt
Our biggest event of the
year! Lunch provided!





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 \$6.00 for adults

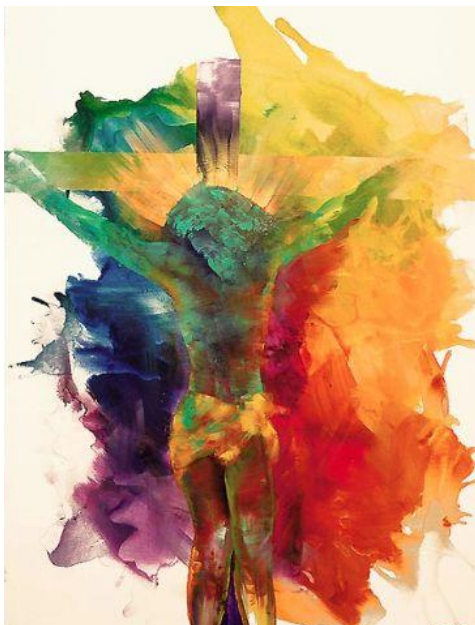
\$4.00 for children

\$15.00 for family

(Tickets will be available soon!)

Tickets go on sale March 23, 2025

The Youth are raising money for their trip this summer.



Wednesday Evenings at St. Philip's:

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

March 12 * March 19 * March 26 * April 2 * April 9

Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services & Community Lunches

Theme is "The Signs of Jesus in the Gospel of John"

Wednesdays at Noon:

**March 12 * March 19
March 26 * April 2 * April 9**

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

This year hosted by: St. Philip's Lutheran Church
5320 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808

LAUREN
CONRAD

AUGUSTINE
MERCANTE

STEPHEN
BENSCOTER

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

SPIRITUALS
IN CONCERT

Join us for Soup and Bread at 6:30
followed by a concert at 7:15.

Any monies collected will be donated to
the St. Philips Refugee ministry.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2025

Passion/Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

Holy Communion Worship Service

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 13, 2025

Mission Kids

11:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025

Upper Room Worship Service

With Stripping of the Altar

7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18, 2025

Tenebrae Service of Darkness

7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

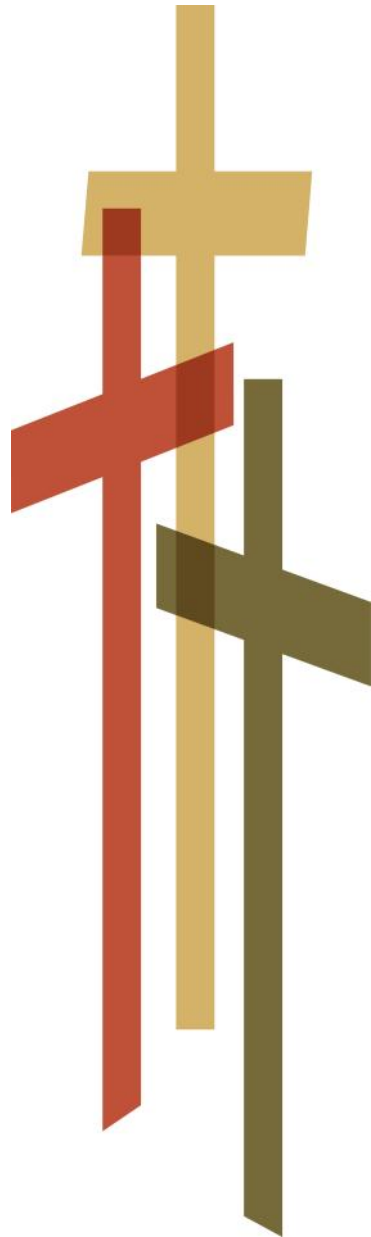
Easter Celebration **7:45 a.m.**

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



EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



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

**If you wish to order Easter Lilies this Year,
please fill out the form below by
Sunday, April 6, 2025.
and return to the church office or
drop it in the offering plate.
The cost per plant will be \$23.**

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

Name: _____ **Phone** _____

Number of Lilies @ \$23 Each _____

Dedication:

In honor of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Or submit form to: <https://forms.gle/Per4h5fhEfEWhMDh7>

You can pick your lily up after any service on Easter Sunday.

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	Maryann Shovestul	(8:00 a.m.)
	Donna Daugherty	(10:30 a.m.)
LAY READER	Cindy Hoyt	(8:00 a.m.)
	Gigi Mueller	(10:30 a.m.)
USHERS	Faith Simperts and	
	Cindy Hoyt	(8:00 a.m.)
	Doug Larson and	
	Janet Shechter	(10:30 a.m.)
GREETERS	Faith Simperts and	
	Cindy Hoyt	(8:00 a.m.)
	Debbi Miller and	
	Michael Imgarten	(10:30 a.m.)
ACOLYTE	Allie Pouser	(10:30 a.m.)
GROWING IN THE GOSPEL	Liz Freburger	

THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Sunday, March 9 First Sunday in Lent	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i>
	9:15 a.m.	YG Breakfast Club in the Youth Room
	9:15 a.m.	Kid's Club in the Christian Ed Wing
	9:15 a.m.	Large Group in the Fellowship Hall
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i>
	11:30 a.m.	Mission Kids Get Messy in the Fellowship Hall
Monday, March 10	6:00 p.m.	Outside Group meeting in the Fellowship Hall
	6:45 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room
Tuesday, March 11	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	11:30 a.m.	O.W.L.S in the Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group in Room #128
	7:00 p.m.	Congregational Council Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, March 12	Noon	MillCreek Ministerium Ecumenical Soup and Bread Worship and Luncheon at St. Philip's
	1:30 p.m.	Grocery Club in the Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Soup and Bread Supper in the Fellowship Hall
	7:15 p.m.	Lenten Vespers Service in the Sanctuary
Thursday, March 13	12:30 p.m.	Grief Group in the Fellowship Hall
Friday, March 14	7:00 p.m.	Women's Evening Book Group
Saturday, March 15		<i>Guidepost articles are due today!</i>
Sunday, March 16 Second Sunday In Lent	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i>
	9:15 a.m.	YG Breakfast Club in the Youth Room
	9:15 a.m.	Kid's Club in the Christian Ed Wing
	9:15 a.m.	Large Group in the Fellowship Hall
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i>
	Noon	Youth Group Escape Room

