

St. Philip Information and News (SPIN)

A weekly electronic newsletter

December 16, 2015

Greetings,

Below is your weekly St. Philip Information & News (SPIN). We hope that it will help you stay informed about the events here at St. Philip, encourage you to pray for those in our St. Philip community, and to help you prepare your hearts for worship this coming weekend.

If you do not wish to receive this weekly email publication, please let Linda Goodnough know by replying to this email.

Here's what is in this week's SPIN:

- Worship News
- Worship Servants
- Worship Notes
- Ministry News
- Events
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- This Week's Calendar
- In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Worship News

Upcoming Worship – Sunday, December 20th

The Rocky Mountain Synod Council, upon the request of the synod's Global Mission Committee, has asked congregations to declare one Sunday in Advent 2015 as "Refugee Sunday." "Refugee Sunday" at St. Philip will be December 20th. We will include a special litany and prayers for refugees, immigrants, and asylees in our worship at the 8:00am service.

The children's Christmas program "The Birth of Jesus" will take place during the 10:45am service. Preschool through 4th grades will each share two songs, and 5th and 6th graders will serve as lectors, narrators, acolytes, and ushers. Please join us in worship!

Celebrating Christmas at St. Philip

Christmas Eve Worship – Thursday, December 24th

"Hark! The herald angels sing!" St. Philip will offer four opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve this year - at **3pm, 5pm, 7pm, and 9pm**. Communion is offered at all four services.

The **3pm** service is a **family-oriented service**. This service is very interactive; we will sing Christmas carols and the children will help us relive the Christmas story, complete with costumes.

The **5pm and 7pm services will be our traditional Christmas Eve services**. The bells will ring, the choir will sing, the musicians will play, and the candles will be lit to celebrate the birth of our newborn Savior. Come early to get a seat!

The late service, at **9pm** will be a quieter, more intimate service, with lots of Christmas carols.

Christmas Day Worship – Friday, December 25th

"Joy to the World!" Come celebrate the birth of our newborn king. The Christmas Day worship service is at **10am**. "Come, Let Us Adore Him!"

Altar Flowers

Our apologies to the Kuenne family; the altar flowers for last weekend were generously donated by them in honor of their daughter Erika's birthday. Our apologies for the omission in the SPIN and the Sunday worship bulletin.

The 2016 flower chart is here – now is the best time to reserve a date to honor a special person or occasion. The cost of an altar flower arrangement in 2016 is still \$25, and needs to be pre-paid. You are always welcome to take the flowers home after the second service on Sunday.

Scripture Readings for this Week

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

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.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped 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 leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

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

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

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

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

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

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

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

Worship Servants for December 19 – December 20, 2015

Saturday worship, December 19, 2015

- Pianist – Naomi Doerr
- Cantor – Quinn Silco
- Usher – Monica Auch
- Altar Guild – Suzanne Peterson
- A/V – Jerry Jantz

Worship Servants for Sunday, December 20, 2015		
	8:00am	10:45am
Assisting Minister	Mike Graff	Mike Graff
Advent Readers	Jerry & Dianne Mydlach	the Petersen family
Lector	Sandi Stevermer	Sunday School
Acolytes	OPEN	OPEN
Communion Deacons	Sandi Stevermer, Lynn Nourse	OPEN
Prayer Partner	Heather Varnell	Kirstine Rand
Ushers	Bob & Barb DeLong Bob Kidder	Marc Roswech, Bryant Barchet, Chris White, Joe Klingman
Altar Guild	Betty Welch	Carole Kessler, Mary Mahaffey
A-V Sound & Slides	Beth Mielke	The Wall family
Greeters	OPEN	
Ambassadors	Jill & Greg Luer	
Coffee Cart	Ana Tolentino & LeRae Schnickel	
KeyKeeper	Howard Hanson/Peter Mielke	

Ministry News

Worship & Music Ministry

Openings for Christmas Lectors

Lectors, please be sure to sign up for reading on SignUp Genius.com. Lectors are especially needed for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the weekend immediately following Christmas (Dec. 27th). Please contact Jan Philpy at gjphilpy@gmail.com with any concerns or questions.

Fresh Faces Needed to Usher

The usher teams have lost some members recently, and are searching for some new faces to join the team. If you are interested in learning more about what is required to be an usher, please contact Charlie Petersen at Petersens@q.com, or 303.948.7953.

Communion Deacons Needed

We have a need for communion deacons. Please contact Lisa Edington at cdotlme@aol.com or call Lisa at 303.918.2033.

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

Ladies, Altar Guild needs your help. Please contact Victoria Edington at edingtonvr@aol.com.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Sanctuary Choir will be taking a short break following Christmas, but will resume rehearsals on Thursday, **January 7, 2016**. Sanctuary Choir is open to all men and women. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30pm in the choir room or the sanctuary. For more information, please contact Alan Davis, at 303.979.4491 or 253.359.3962/ adavis@stphilip-co.org.

Ringling Brass (handbell choir) Rehearsal Schedule

Ringling Brass will take a short break following Christmas, but will resume rehearsals in January, on Tuesday, **January 12th**. The Ringling Brass meets on Tuesday evenings in the sanctuary at 6:00pm. For more information, please contact Alan Davis, at 303.979.4491 or 253.359.3962/ adavis@stphilip-co.org.

Bread Bakers Needed

Volunteers are needed to bake bread for communion. Please sign up at the Welcome Center kiosk. Contact Rita Kuenne at 720.320.6602 or rckuenne@yahoo.com with questions.

Community Care & Compassion Ministry

Thank You, Angel Tree Contributors!

Thank you for your time, money, care, and “God’s Hands” in giving gifts for Lutheran Family Services. 48 gifts were provided by you. Those people will be blessed through you and your witness. Thank you in Jesus’ name!

Totes for Hope-New Opportunity for Ministry!

We have now expanded our ministry to include Totes for Hope, a program that provides weekend food for Sheridan school district families. Every Friday we will be handing out totes to needy children which will include food for the weekend.

We need:

- People to assemble the totes on Friday afternoons and hand them out.
- Regular grocery bags (paper, plastic, or cloth, but NOT newspaper bags) for use with this program.

To volunteer for any aspect of this ministry, please contact Carole Kessler at 303.238.6873 or ckess911@aol.com.

Thank You from Sheridan Food Pantry

Thank you to all who donated food for Sharing with Sheridan! The need is great and you helped a lot! Protein items continue to be important, especially with the long winter break coming up – not just peanut butter and tuna, but also canned items like ham, salmon, chicken, stews, hearty soups, chili and chicken and dumplings.

Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry Update

HELP! We are still looking for drivers to pick up supplies at the Food Bank of the Rockies on Wednesday or Thursday. We can arrange for a trailer or pickup truck for you if that helps. Even if you can only serve occasionally, please contact Carole Kessler at 303.238.6873 or ckess911@aol.com if you are interested.

Sharing with Sheridan volunteers have recently become aware of several homeless teenagers using the food pantry. They are more likely to find somewhere to stay if they bring food. This IS such an important ministry!

Discipleship Ministry

Children’s Christmas Program – December 20th

The children’s Christmas program will take place during the 10:45am service. Preschool through 4th grades will each share two songs, and 5th and 6th graders will serve as lectors, narrators, acolytes, and ushers. There are still leadership spots open for 5th and 6th graders. They can sign up on the SignUp Genius page:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4aa8a829a4ff2-christmas1>. Rehearsal will take place during the Sunday school hour (9:30-10:30am) and the program is during the 10:45am service.

There is no children's Sunday school on December 27 or January 3. The fun begins again on Sunday, January 10, 2016 with a unit on Jesus and John the Baptist!

Interested in Becoming a Member of St. Philip?

At St. Philip we offer two kinds of classes for those wishing to learn more about St. Philip, and for those desiring to become members.

The Inquirer Class is for those who are new to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), of which St. Philip is a part. This class covers what we believe about God and the practices of the church, including the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. We offer this class for those who have come from traditions other than the ELCA who wish to become members of St. Philip Lutheran Church.

The next set of Inquirer classes will be held over three Sundays: **January 3 - 17** from **9:30am to 10:30am in the Fireside Room**. Childcare will be provided through the church nursery.

The New Member Class is for those who are either transferring their membership from an ELCA congregation, those returning to active membership at St. Philip, or those who have completed the Inquirer Class. In this class you'll learn more about the ministry of St. Philip and how you can become part of our vision: *"All of us sharing our gifts in service."*

The next New Member Class will be held over three Sundays: **January 24 – February 14 from 9:30am to 10:30am** in the Fireside room. Childcare will be provided through the church nursery.

Please RSVP to the church office at 303.979.4491 if you plan to attend either of these classes and if you need child care.

MOSAIC Adult Forum – Sunday, December 20 @ 9:30am in MC-4/5

Mosaic in Denver partners with people with intellectual disabilities to create a meaningful life in a caring community, giving a voice to their needs. We serve 63 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Denver and surrounding areas through the work of 15 staff. We provide supports that are tailored to each person's own needs and desires in life. We help people define their own happiness. We support them and empower the pursuit of their goals.

Join us for a one-hour tour of our mission called Discover the Possibilities, where we will share with you our mission through stories told by those who know it best - our staff, the people we serve and their families. We hope you'll learn more about our important mission and leave feeling inspired by the work we're doing each day for the people we serve. Contact Becky Near at beckynear@q.com with questions.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is not your typical Bible Study! The focus is to have conversations and discussions about God, God's presence in our world and in our lives of faith. Instead of meeting at the church, we meet at a place where we can grab a drink and talk around a table. **We are now meeting at the Locavore Beer Works at 5950 S. Platte Canyon Road, Littleton 80123** (at Bowles & Platte Canyon). We will be meeting from 5-6:30pm,

so come join us whenever you are able to make it. All are welcome, feel free to bring your kids and join us for a drink and great conversation!

Evangelism & Global Outreach Ministry

ELCA Good Gifts

ELCA Good Gifts catalogs are available in the narthex offering farm animals, water wells, mosquito nets, and much more for a donation made in someone's name.

Although there are several other organizations who also offer similar opportunities, if you give to Good Gifts, 90 percent of your donation goes to the cause and only 10 percent goes to administrative costs.

Family Life Ministry

Ruth Circle January meeting

Ruth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 20, 2016** in Fellowship Hall Room 1.

The Bible study for January, February, March, and April will be Philippians. Please call Flo Figge (303.932.6197) or Margaret Rusch (303.979.7456) with questions.

Theatre & Theology

Our next Theatre & Theology offering is “*The Nest*” in the Space Theater on **January 26, 2016**. The new comedy from Theresa Rebeck “may make you laugh or shudder, or both!” Please sign up at the Welcome Center kiosk by Sunday, **January 3rd** if you would like to attend.

NO Ladies Fellowship Luncheon in November or December

“The Ladies Who Lunch” will NOT have a fellowship luncheon in November or December because of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We hope you will join us in January 2016 as we start another year of delicious lunches and wonderful fellowship! For more information about the women’s fellowship luncheon, please contact Paula Willhouse or Char Nauman.

Take Them A Meal – A Caring Ministry of St. Philip

Do you like to cook? Or do you want to help a family in need? We have several members of our congregation who could use some help. If you are interested, please go online to: www.takethemameal.com . If you have questions, please contact Karen Rossi at krossi4635@gmail.com or 720.283.3102.

Men’s Evening Bible Study

Men’s Bible study is on Christmas break until it resumes on Tuesday, **January 5, 2016**. For more information, please feel free to contact Paul Selander via email at: p73101@me.com/303.794.9739. All are welcome!

Events

Free Dental Day for Needy Children – February 25, 2016

In honor of Children's Dental Health Month in February, Dr. Alan Goral is hosting a one day only dental screening for children ages 17 and under at no charge. This charitable service is intended for families in need. The screening includes a doctor's exam, polish and fluoride application. If additional treatment is deemed necessary, in most cases the treatment can be performed the same day. Space is limited, so please call soon to schedule an appointment for **February 25, 2016**. Call the Ken Caryl Dental Center at 303.933.2273 to make appointments. The office is located at 10789 Bradford Road, Suite100, Littleton, 80127.

Church News

Check Requests Need to be Turned In

If you have spent money on behalf of a St. Philip ministry and need to be reimbursed, please get your check requests to Linda Goodnough as soon as possible. The church books will be closing soon, and all expenses for 2015 need to be recorded. Questions? Call Linda at 303.979.4491 or email at lgoodnough@stphilip-co.org.

2016 Pledges

It is not too late to turn in your pledge card or estimate of giving for 2016! Please contact Linda in the church office at 303.979.4491.

Year-End Staff Gifts

You should have received a letter recently from Dick Rock, head of the personnel committee regarding a year-end gift for the staff of St. Philip. If you wish to make a special donation towards the staff gift, please do so soon. Thank you.

Nursery Help Needed

A nursery helper is still needed for Sunday, December 27th, January 3rd, and from January 31 – March. Miss Paula is going to have knee surgery the end of January, and someone is needed to fill in for her. You must be at least 18. Please contact Linda Goodnough in the church office – [303.979.4491](tel:303.979.4491)/lgoodnough@stphilip-co.org. This is a paid position.

Check out the Buy/Sell, Help Wanted/Needed Board

Have something to sell? Want some help with a project? Looking for a part-time job or a babysitter? Check out the Buy/Sell, Help Wanted/Need bulletin board just outside the church office. You will find all sorts of items for sale, job opportunities, services, and technicians listed. A wonderful FREE resource at your fingertips.

Calendar Events This Week (December 16 – December 27)

Wednesday, December 16 6:00P – Confirmation (FH) 7:00P – Advent Worship	Monday, December 21 6:00P – Property Team meeting (FH-1) 6:30P – Prayer Shawl Ministry (FS)
Thursday, December 17 7:00a – Men’s Breakfast (IHOP Bowles Xing) 1:00P – Prayer team (Sanc) 5:00P – Theology on Tap (Locavore) 6:30P – Sanctuary Choir (CR) 7:00P – Overeaters Anonymous (MC-3)	Tuesday, December 22 1:30P – SPLC staff meeting (MC-1) 6:00P – Handbell practice (Sanc)
Friday, December 18 (office open 8-12noon) 9:30a – Drop the Rock Book Study (MC-3)	Wednesday, December 23 No activities scheduled
Saturday, December 19 9:00a – ACA (MC-3) 10:30a – Al-Anon (MC-3) 5:30P – Worship	Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve (office open 8am - noon) 3:00P – Worship 5:00P – Worship 7:00P – Worship 9:00P - Worship
Sunday, December 20 – 4th Sunday of Advent 8:00a – Worship 9:00a – Coffee Fellowship (narthex) 9:30a – MOSAIC Adult Forum (MC 4/5) 9:30a – Education Hour (all ages) 10:45a – Worship	Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day (office closed) 10:00a – Worship
	Saturday, December 26 9:00a – ACA (MC-3) 10:30a – Al-Anon (MC-3) 5:30P – Worship
	Sunday, December 27 8:00a – Worship 9:00a – Coffee Fellowship (narthex) 10:45a – Worship

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Members of St. Philip: Pam Kubicek, Sue Miller and her family, Brian Lamb and his family, Bill Colbenson, Dale Hackstaff, Brian Counterman, Rita Kuenne, Roger Crowner, Tim Youngren, Scott Miller, Renee Hartman, Sally Cox, Karlene Murphy, Shirley LeVin, & Marian Schild.

Family Members: Jerry Stabrava (husband of Tracy Stabrava), **the family of Marlene Grunig** (mother of Sue Miller), **the family of Jim Lamb** (father of Brian Lamb), **Barbara Reitz** (daughter of Marilyn & William Reitz), **Jim Dawson** (uncle of Dave Husted), **Natalie** (daughter of Carmen Fulenwider), **Dorothy and Jackie** (aunts of Anne Henning), **William Moeller** (father of Penny Selden), **Bill Orf** (son-in-law of Howard & Nancy Hanson), **Katie Dale** (sister-in-law of Mary Mahaffey), **Valley** (Larry & Phyllis Kemp's daughter), **Sonia LeVin** (daughter-in-law of Bob & Shirley LeVin), **Ron & Louise Carlson** (Kirstine Rand's parents), **Erika Kuenne** (Carl & Rita Kuenne's daughter), and **Sally Casterline** (Nancy Hanson's sister).

Friends: Alberta Szczukowski (Wauneta Rogge), **Emily** (Anne Henning), **the family & friends of Christian Block** (Tyler Thomas), **Bob Goodnough, Emily Mulhollen** (Celusniaks), **Steve Gaare, Pam Owens** (Karen Smith), **Nick Quintana** (Knight family), and **Dr. Jill Pechacek** (Roswech family).

Prayers of thanksgiving for the safe return to Earth from the International Space Station of astronaut Kjell Lindgren (cousin of Becky Near).

Prayers of thanksgiving for the good test results for Natalie, (daughter of Carmen Fulenwider).

Prayers of support and encouragement for JoHanna Buchholz as she continues her seminary studies. Prayers of encouragement and support for Aaron Silco on his Global Mission assignment in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Prayers for our companion synods and friends in Madagascar, and our missionary there Kirsten Laderach.

Prayers of remembrance and love for all our homebound members.

Prayers for all servicemen and women deployed around the world, especially those with ties to St. Philip. Prayers for healing and comfort for those suffering with physical and mental injuries.

If you have a prayer concern, please call the church office at 303.979.4491, or send an email to Sue Riecks at sriecks@stphilip-co.org. Prayer requests will run for two weeks unless otherwise requested.

Prepared by Sue Riecks, emailed by Linda Goodnough
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