

St. Philip Information and News (SPIN)

December 5, 2018

Church News

Advent and Christmas Services

Midweek Advent services begin at 7pm on December 5, 12, and 19. Our theme is anticipation. Please join us as we prepare for Christ's birth.

Sunday, December 9 we will have the Memory Tree service at 9:15am. Meet in the lobby by the church office. You can bring an ornament in memory of a loved one who has passed, or we also have ornaments available to borrow.

Sunday, December 16 our Christmas Cantata will take place at both services.

Sunday, December 23 our Bluegrass Group will provide music at the 8am service. Then at the 10:45am service the children of our congregation will play the special music and anthems.

Christmas Eve Services are as follows:

3pm-Focuses on children and families

5pm & 7pm-Full instrumental and choral accompaniment

9pm-Quieter late night service

Christmas Day Service is at 10am.

Altar Flowers

Flowers this weekend have been given by Rosemary Reynders in memory of her mother Frances' birthday.

If you are interested in donating flowers, please contact the church office. The cost is \$25 and needs to be prepaid. You are welcome to take the flowers home after the second service on Sunday. Please return the vase to the church when finished.

Christmas Poinsettias

Orders are being taken for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. See your Connection Cards for details, or contact the church office.

Cards

The children at St. Nicholas Saturday made Christmas cards to send to others. If you know someone who could use some Advent cheer, please send their name and address to Jan Philpy at gjphilpy@gmail.com.

Camp for Kids, Youth and Families at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

This Summer, 2019, St. Philip is going to camp at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp! All children and youth currently in 3rd-12th grades will have the opportunity to go to camp this Summer at Rainbow Trail in Hillside, CO. Families with children of all ages are also able to go to Family Camp. To find out more about camp and when you or your child (ren) can go to camp this summer with St. Philip, please go to <http://www.stphilip-co.org/camp>.

Thank You

Sharing with Sheridan, our congregation's food pantry in Sheridan, will likely serve 7,000 people this year. This couldn't happen without the support of the St. Philip community through volunteers, food donations, money, and prayers. The steering group and the people of Sheridan are very grateful for all you do. Thank you!

We want to thank all the people helping to decorate the sanctuary last Thursday. Your aid made the task much easier.

Decorating committee:

Barb Donaho

Sandra Fishko

Church Needs/Fundraising

Help For Victims of the Windermere Tower Fire

The 163 residents of Windermere Tower were told recently that their building is no longer habitable and they are being evicted. Still displaced from their units and belongings, many are staying in hotels provided by Arapaho services and their insurance companies. They face incredible odds this holiday season.

We want to mobilize the church to walk alongside them in this season – reminding them that the good news of Advent extends to them.

Navigator Training: Would you come alongside a Windermere resident to help them navigate the next steps in working with insurance and taking the next steps on this journey? Love INC will be offering training on **Monday, December 10 at 1pm**. Contact Duane Keesen at duanekeesen@msn.com to sign up.

Roles of a Navigator:

1. Meet one-on-one with Windermere fire residents.
2. Get to know their story. LISTEN, be ready to comfort if necessary.
3. When they are ready, find out what their needs are. Their emotional health and welfare always comes first.
4. Report back to Lead Navigators in writing within 24 hours. Or, if possible, same day.
5. Pray with them and/or for them.

Love INC offers a 1-hour orientation at their office every 2 weeks. (The 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1pm & the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30pm) This is a great chance to get information on how to partner in life changing compassion. The next orientation is **Wednesday, December 12th at 1pm**. Go to www.loveinlittleton.org to sign up.

Sign Up Sheets

Please take time to look at the sign up sheets in the narthex the next time you are at church. We have many openings available for bread bakers, confirmation mentors, Advent readers, Greeters, and more. Contact the church office with any questions.

Special Music for Sunday, December 23

We are looking for children who wish to perform a Christmas-themed song before and during the 10:45am worship service on Sunday, December 23. This can be through voice, piano, violin, or any other musical instrument. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d49adae2da57-christmas1>

Contact Kristen Celusniak at kristen.celusniak@gmail.com with any questions.

ELCA Good Gifts

“Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat, please put a penny in the old man’s hat ...” Or better yet, order a chick or piglet or a water well for someone in need from the Good Gifts catalog. These are gifts that keep on giving and can help a family survive on their own. These gifts fight hunger and transform lives, and can be given to honor a friend or loved one. You can find the ELCA Good Gifts catalog on the World Hunger table in the narthex, or online at ELCA.org/goodgifts. Contact Nancy Oelz with questions.

Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry—December Donations

This month we are asking for jelly, Masa flour, and 5 lb. bags of sugar. Please place these items in the bins by the office. Thank you!

Children & Family Ministries

Sunday School

All ages are invited to start Sunday school together at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. After the opening program, we will move into classes:

- ◇ Frolic Family (0-3 years + a grown-up): Jesus is Born!
- ◇ Frolic PK (3 and 4 years): The Christmas Story II
- ◇ SPARK! (K-4th Grade): Advent (Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-12; Luke 1:26-58, 2:1-20)
- ◇ Connect (5th & 6th Grade): Advent: Nativity

Look at what’s coming up at <http://www.stphilip-co.org/ministries/childrens-ministries>.

St. Philip 5th & 6th grade students are invited to a Christmas Party on **Sunday, December 16**. An evite was sent out to families of Connect students. If you did not receive the evite, please contact JoHanna in the church office to get the details.

Bible Study Groups/Classes

Men’s Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Men’s Tuesday Evening Bible Study takes place at the Paul Selander home, 6338 S Harlan Way in Leawood. All men of St Philip are invited to attend this in-depth Bible study. Please come and join us whenever you can. Any questions? Call Paul at 303.794.9739.

Fellowship in the Word

Fellowship in the Word is a men’s Bible study that meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 9:30am in MC-1. Contact Pr. Glenn Isernhagen with any questions.

Let’s Unwrap the Bible

Let’s Unwrap the Bible is a women’s bible study. We meet at 9:30am in the Fireside Room at church on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. We are currently studying 1,2,3 John. Our discussions focus on how scripture relates to our present-day lives, listening and learning from each other. Consider joining us any time!
Contact: Chris Youngren 303.973.3096

Events

Ambler Clarinet Choir

The Ambler Clarinet Choir will hold an open rehearsal/performance on **Sunday, December 9 from 4-6pm, in the sanctuary**. Congregation members are invited to attend as the choir prepares for an upcoming performances at Boettcher Concert Hall. This is a chance to hear your Christmas and holiday favorites played on six different sized clarinets. Because it is a rehearsal, you will witness how this ensemble prepares, yet most pieces will be performed in their entirety and without interruption. Also, because it is a rehearsal, you are welcome to come and go at your leisure. Congregation members Alan Goral and Andy Stevens are participants. Please join us!

Lutheran Chorale

The Lutheran Chorale would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, and extend an invitation to join us for our Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 9**. We will be starting with *Caroling for our Lord* at **1pm** in the lobby of Lutheran Hospital, 8300 W 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge. We will be gathering around the piano and singing many of our favorite carols and hymns. Please join us in singing.

At **3pm** we will be moving to the Chapel of the Good Samaritan, also on the Lutheran Hospital Campus, at the northeast corner of the hospital's North Pavilion. *The Miracle of our Lord* includes many new and old pieces which celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Our next concert will be held at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1701 W. Caley Avenue, Littleton on **December 9 at 7:30pm**.

We do not sell tickets for our concerts but we will accept a freewill donation. Please contact David Peterson, 303.210.9428, email us at TheLutheranChorale@comcast.net, or visit our website at thelutheranchorale.org.

Theater & Theology

Our next play is *Last Night and the Night Before* in the Ricketson Theater on **January 29**. This play is a powerful and funny drama about a woman and her 10 year-old daughter who show up unexpectedly on her sister's doorstep. Sign up in the narthex by **Sunday, January 6**. Tickets are \$35 each, and checks made out to St. Philip with Theater & Theology in the memo line can be put in the offering plate or turned in to the office. For questions contact Nancy Oelz at nancyoelz@gmail.com or 720 231 5189.

Stewardship 101

Stewardship for Advent and Christmas

Many of us cherish everything about the Christmas season -- except those incessant advertisements telling us to buy this and by that. We ask, "Where's Jesus in all this commercialism?"

This is the right question. Though it asks us to examine every aspect of our lives, stewardship particularly challenges us to question the role money plays in our personal lives and our culture.

Christmas presents are wonderful expressions of love that makes both giver and recipient feel good. At the same time, we want to be wary of advertising's lure to make us overspend, or to think that the cost of our gift is proportionate to our love.

Most of all, we need to be sure that the main point of our Christmas is not the gifts we give, but the gift we receive from God – Jesus. Here are some ideas:

- Challenge yourself to spend less for presents this year. Set a budget and stick to it.
- Attend worship regularly in Advent and Christmas.
- Give some handmade presents: A scarf or hat, a photo album, a batch of fudge, a card, a poem.
- Prayerfully read Advent daily devotions (Richard Rohr's *Preparing for Christmas* is amazing!).
- Give your time: a concert together, a shared meal, a day at a museum, a walk in the woods
- Use an Advent calendar to help you remember all that God has given you.
- Give service: wash a loved one's car, help clean the garage, paint a room, babysit for an evening.
- Play Christmas music that has religious themes (More "Silent Night," less "Frosty the Snowman.")
- Instead of buying a present, make a donation to a charitable organization in honor of your loved one (or check out ELCA Good Gifts!).
- Make a generous year-end contribution to your congregation.

Our thoughtful practices for Advent and Christmas not only make for good stewardship of our time, talents, relationships and money, they also help us to draw near to Our Lord and experience God's greatest gift to us.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2018, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org.

Preparing for Worship - December 8 & 9
First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4
Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

Calendar of Events This Week (December 5 - 16, 2018)

<p>Wednesday, December 5 2:00p – SPLC Staff Meeting 6:00p – Confirmation mentoring (FH, FS, MC-1) 6:00p – Sr. High Youth (YR) 7:00p – Advent Worship Service</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 11 9:00a – League of Women Voters (MC-3) 1:30p – Worship Planning Mtg. (MC-1) 2:00p – Prayer Team 6:30p – Book Club (FS) 6:30p – Boy Scouts (FH, Kitchen, FH-1a/b) 7:00p – Men’s Bible Study (Selander home)</p>
<p>Thursday, December 6 7:00a – Men’s Breakfast (IHOP Bowles Crossing) 9:00a – GS Training (MC-3) 7:00p – Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room) 7:00p – Overeaters Anonymous (MC-3)</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 12 9:30a – Fellowship in the Word (MC-1) 9:30a – Let’s Unwrap the Bible (FS) 2:00p – SPLC Staff Meeting 6:00p – Confirmation mentoring (FH, FS, MC-1) 6:00p – Sr. High Youth (YR) 7:00p – Advent Worship Service</p>
<p>Friday, December 7 <i>Church office open 8am-noon</i> No activities scheduled</p>	<p>Thursday, December 13 7:00a – Men’s Breakfast (IHOP Bowles Crossing) 12:30p – SPELC Christmas Program (Sanc.FH) 7:00p – Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room) 7:00p – Overeaters Anonymous (MC-3)</p>
<p>Saturday, December 8 9:00a – ACA/Serenity’s Child (MC-3) 9:00a – CHCA Meeting (MC-1) 10:30a – Al-Anon/Columbine AFG (MC-3) 5:30p – Worship</p>	<p>Friday, December 14 <i>Church office open 8am-noon</i> 12:30p – SPELC Christmas Program (Sanc.FH) 6:00p – Davina Perret Recital (Sanc.)</p>
<p>Sunday, December 9 8:00a – Worship 9:00a – Coffee Fellowship 9:30a – Education Hour 10:45a – Worship 4:00p – Ambler Clarinet Rehearsal (Sanc.)</p>	<p>Saturday, December 15 9:00a – ACA/Serenity’s Child (MC-3) 9:00a – Creative Caring Quilters (FH) 9:00a – Girl Scouts (MC-1, FH-1a/b) 9:00a – Lori Wilson Recital (Sanc., MC kitchenette) 10:30a – Al-Anon/Columbine AFG (MC-3) 11:00a – Piano Recital (Sanc., MC-4/5) 1:00p – Lori Wilson Recital (Sanc., MC kitchenette) 5:30p – Worship</p>
<p>Monday, December 10 <i>No activities scheduled</i></p>	<p>Sunday, December 16 8:00a – Worship 9:00a – Coffee Fellowship 9:30a – Education Hour 10:45a – Worship</p>

Prepared by Angela Seep, Parish Secretary
 St. Philip Lutheran Church
 7531 S. Kendall Blvd. Littleton, CO 80128-7060
 Office: 303.979.4491 Fax: 303.979.6396

Save The Date-2018	
1 st Saturday of each month – work at Food Bank of the Rockies	
December 24	Christmas Eve worship: 3, 5, 7, 9pm
December 25	Christmas Day-Church offices closed; worship at 10am
Save The Date-2019	
March 3	Ken Caryl Concerts: <i>An Afternoon in Paris</i> 2:30pm
June 26	Ken Caryl Concerts: <i>An All-American Evening</i> 7pm
September 28	Ken Caryl Concerts: <i>Spanish Serenade</i> 7:30pm
December 8	Ken Caryl Concerts: <i>Christmas Around the World</i> 2:30pm

Worship Servants

Saturday, December 8, 2018

Pianist – Michael Clough

Cantor – Beth Clough

Sacrament Servant – Linda Heesch

Usher – Paul Stortz

A/V – Jerry Jantz

Worship Servants for Sunday, December 9, 2018		
	8:00am	10:45am
Assisting Minister	George Rasmussen	Jim Smith
Lector	Sandra Fishko	Jan Philpy
Acolytes	Roni Pixley, Erin Finnerty	Lilly Varnell
Communion Deacons	Sandi Stevermer, Diane Bracken	TBD
Ushers	Chris Finney, George Knapp	Marc Roswech, Bryant Barchet, Chris White, Andy Osborne
Sacrament Servants	TBD, JoAnn Breitbach	Betty Welch, TBD
Ambassadors	Dick Rusch, Mary Hatlestad	Stacey Wacholz
Greeters	Michael & Sandi Stevermer	TBD
A-V Sound & Slides	Beth Mielke	Denton West
Coffee Cart	Silver Sages	
KeyKeepers	Sat. (12/8): Dick Rock	Week beg. 12/9: Gaylen Rapp

Our Prayer List

Members:

Family of Ginger Brennan, Jerry Mydlach, Dave Oelz, Jonathan Anderson, Sherry Anderson, and Richard Wagner.

Family Members:

Family of Laura Dahl (Becky Near's aunt)	Darlene Rahne (Amy Rahne's stepmother)
Elizabeth Page (Aurora Keltner's grandmother)	Patrik Bagwell (Monica Auch's grandson)
Amanda Zarlengo (Marilyn Belford's granddaughter)	Fawn Kemp (Larry Kemp's daughter)
Kevin Doerr (Pastor Nathan & Naomi's son)	Phil Ott (Rita Kuenne's cousin)
Laurie Norris (Marilyn Belford's granddaughter)	Isabelle VanGorder (Marilyn Belford's great-granddaughter)
Family of Erling Oelz (Dave Oelz's brother)	Caroline Carroll (Arne & Harriet Truman's daughter)
Ian Anderson (Sherry Anderson's son)	Ryan Ermold (Joanne Ermold's son)
	Erika Kuenne (Carl & Rita Kuenne's daughter)

Friends:

John Johnson (Finney)	Betty Awad (Fecht)
Ronnie & Pat (Pazalos)	Brian (Rossberg, Fecht)
Tom & Connie Mallette (Edington)	Dorothy & Earl (Gillett)
Family & friends of Jane Conner (Anderson)	Traute M. (Fecht)
Kim, Joe, and Theodore Janz (Anderson)	Trina, Melissa, Susan, and Judy (Henning)
Joyce Rossborough (Stevermer)	Andrew & Kate Rymer (Rogge)
	Judy Marxhausen (Nourse)

Prayers for our prayer partner congregations, Abiding Hope and Christ Lutheran.

Prayers of love, support, and encouragement for JoHanna Buchholz as she continues her seminary studies. Prayers of support and encouragement for Garang Manyok Giet as he continues his seminary studies at African International University.

Prayers of support and love for our companion synods and friends in Madagascar, and our Madagascar missionary Kirsten Laderach. Prayers of support for Aaron and Anna Silco and their mission work in Thailand.

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 Angela Seep at aseep@stphilip-co.org. Prayer requests will run for two weeks unless otherwise requested.