

St. Philip Information and News (SPIN)

December 2, 2020

Worship Information

Online Worship

If you have access to a computer and the internet, you can worship with St. Philip at home! Go to **www.stphilip-co.org/worship-at-home/** and you will find information about livestreaming our services as well as videos of our worship services. If you go to **www.stphilip-co.org/worship-archives** you will find videos of past worship services.

Arise and Shine: A Series of Special Services for Advent

Join us for our Advent worship series, *Arise and Shine*. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for the second week in Advent we will celebrate Jesus as the Light of the world and how we reflect his light in our daily lives.

A Taste of Christmas Hymn Sing

Each Wednesday we will be featuring A Taste of Christmas Hymn Sing. There will be four hymns to listen to or sing along with. A Bible reading and prayer is included as well, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ and as we get in the Christmas Spirit! A big thank you to the St. Philip Choir for leading us in these hymns! Go to https://youtu.be/xxa_j9GVHnw to access the hymn sing.

Church News

Youth and Children Virtual Christmas Performances

Calling all youth musicians! Please help us spread holiday cheer and record yourself playing or singing your favorite Christmas song. The videos will be shared as Prelude and Postlude music during worship on **December 20** and/or background music during the Church Sanctuary Christmas Video Tour.

Submit videos/recordings by December 11 to Kristen Celusniak at kristen.celusniak@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities/Donations

Food Bank of the Rockies

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? For everyone who volunteers at the Food Bank of the Rockies, Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry gets credit to use for food purchase. It's a win-win!! We have a group scheduled to work on **Saturday, December 12 from 9am-noon**. If you would like to help, contact Carole Kessler at 303.238.6873 or ckess911@aol.com.

Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry

Last week Tuesday we gave away 160 turkeys! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated.

Items we need:

- Chicken Noodle Soup

- Tomato Soup
- Chili with meat
- Pork and beans
- Dry pinto beans
- Canned corn, peas, and green beans

We have plenty of egg cartons at this time.

For those who wish to drop off donations directly at the food pantry, please take them to the east door of the Sheridan Recreation Center on Thursdays only between 11:30am and 1:00pm. You can also bring items to church anytime.

Children, Youth & Family

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is excited to host camp this coming summer! This past summer, they were able to run half of their camp weeks and did so safely with many policies in place. Now is the time to sign up for camp at Rainbow Trail this summer. Children and youth currently in grades 1st-7th are eligible.

The camp theme this year is *Taking it Down the Mountain*. The Bible study centers on John 16:33, "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you will face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

We hope that all of our children and youth in grades 1-7 will be able to join us at Rainbow Trail this summer! There are several weeks campers can go to camp, but the dates St. Philip will be going as a group are as follows:

Current 1st-2nd grade kids will be going to Intro To Camp and will be going June 20-23.

Current 3rd-5th grade kids will be going to Juniors Camp and will be going June 20-26.

Current 6th-7th grade youth will go to Confirmation Camp and will be going the week of June 27-July 3.

Family Camp is also available for families with children of all ages! Family Camp is August 8-14.

For more information check out Rainbowtrail.org or ask Pastor Brad.

Sr. High Mission Trip 2021

Plans have been made with precautions and policies so our Senior Youth can go on a Summer Mission Trip. We will be going to Pine Ridge, SD and working alongside the Oglala Lakota Sioux tribe members on the reservation. The dates are July 18-24. Please contact Pastor Brad if you are interested.

Preparing for Worship - December 6, 2020
First Reading: Zechariah 9:14-17
Second Reading: Philippians 2:14-16
Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

Stewardship 101

God equips us for ‘new things’

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”—Isaiah 43:19

Advent and Christmas are all about celebrating that most amazing “new thing” God brought about for our sake – incarnating God’s divine essence in the human form of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

We prayerfully ask at the beginning of every church year, “To what ‘new things’ is God calling us?” But this Advent the question holds special significance.

With its racial unrest, political divisiveness, riots, wildfires, hurricanes and COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 will be remembered as one of the most troubled years in recent history. And everybody is bracing for a “new normal” that is still unknown.

The pandemic has caused us to cancel many of our cherished Advent and Christmas observances. We pray the Holy Spirit will give us the creativity and wisdom to find new ways faithfully to steward the mystery of the incarnation and tell God’s story.

More broadly, we also pray for guidance to steward our lives that we may be, as Jesus directed, the salt of the earth and light to a world that needs us more than ever.

As we listen for God’s direction, preparing us for “new things,” the four traditional Advent themes may offer a path. We cultivate these themes in our hearts and congregations and share them with the world:

- **Hope** as an antidote to the culture of despair.
- **Peace** in our hearts to bring to an angry world.
- **Love** for our friends and enemies alike.
- **Joy** in Christ, who makes all things new.

God, who promises to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, will prepare us and equip us to do “new things” to steward our lives and congregations to meet the challenges ahead.

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.



Our Prayer List

Members

Avis Booth, Dick Rock, Rita Kuenne, JoAnn Breitbach, Rob Murphy

Family Members

Family of Mark Miller (Linda Thomas' cousin)

Family of Sharon Cheak (Carol Doehler's cousin)

Mark Counterman (Brian Counterman's brother)

Todd Coleman (Dawn Collins' brother)

Caroline Carroll (Harriet Truman's daughter)

Fawn Kemp (Larry Kemp's daughter)

Tina (Chris Youngren's daughter)

Lauren Person (Mary Person's daughter)

Dr. Thomas & Neva Flatley (Tom Flatley's father & mother)

Ryan Ermold (Joanne Ermold's son)

Erika Kuenne (Carl & Rita Kuenne's daughter)

Friends

Ashley Harris (Shibly)

Ray W. (Roswech)

Mike (Henning)

Kevin & Eileen (Henning)

Bob Goodnough

Nancy (former member Rita Bentley's daughter)

Emeli Bowers (Ermold)

Kerry (Mundt)

Prayers for all those affected by and afflicted with COVID-19. Prayers for all healthcare workers and their families as they grapple with this pandemic.

Prayers for the unemployed and the underemployed.

Prayers of love and support for JoHanna Buchholz, our former Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries, as she prepares to begin her first call as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Devils Lake, ND. Prayers for her and Scott and Lydia as they get ready to move to a new home.

Prayers for the students supported through the Seeds of South Sudan.

Prayers of support and love for our companion synods and friends in Madagascar.

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 contact Angela Seep at aseep@stphilip-co.org or 303.979.4491. Prayer requests will run for two weeks unless otherwise requested.