

St. Philip Information and News (SPIN)

December 6, 2023



Worship News

Upcoming Services

Sunday, December 10—Memory Tree Service

Sunday, December 17—Advent Cantata in worship; Journey to Bethlehem in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve services at 9am, 3pm, and 5pm

Saturday Evening Worship

Saturday evening worship takes place on the **2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month at 5pm** in the sanctuary with the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Following the services we will have wine and cheese fellowship with other light refreshments.

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

This year on **Christmas Eve (Dec. 24, 2023)** we will have three worship services here at St. Philip. Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, our first service will be at **9am**. The service at **3pm** will be more family-oriented and involve the children dressing up as we tell the Christmas story. Our last service at **5pm** will be more traditional, with choir, bells, and instrumentalists providing the music. We will livestream the 9am and 5pm services. Come worship with us as we celebrate our Savior's birth!

Christmas Poinsettias

Orders are being taken for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. **Cost is \$20 each**. Go to <https://stphilip-co.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2048275> and fill out the form; or contact Angela in the church office.

Memory Tree

This **Sunday, December 10** we will have our Memory Tree service following 9am worship. Meet in the chapel by 10:15am. You are invited to bring an ornament in memory of a loved one who has passed away; we also have ornaments available to use. The service will begin in the chapel and end outside at the memory tree, so make sure to dress accordingly.

Church News

Adult Faith Formation Class

Deacon Korra will resume our discussion on reviewing the draft of the ELCA Social Statement on Gun Violence and Trauma. We will meet in MC-4/5 from 10:20-11:20am. Pastor Brad will lead a class in the chapel going deeper into the Advent devotion and scriptures.

Ken Caryl Concert Series

Ken Caryl Concerts presents *Songs of the Season* on **Sunday, December 10 at 3pm** here at St. Philip. All ages are welcome and a freewill donation will be accepted.

Advent Devotions

“Encountering God: Living in the present; anticipating the future.”

To prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, we participate in the season of Advent with devotions. Join Pastor Brad and Deacon Korra in our weekly series of Advent video devotions along with the advent study from ELCA World Hunger. The video can be found on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/MSKTnzY2nWs>) and a few printed copies of the study are available in the narthex. Each Sunday join Pastor Brad for an adult faith formation hour to discuss the readings more in depth and share how you are encountering God in your daily lives. This class will meet in the chapel from 10:20-11:20am.

Christmas Tree Blessing

The custom of the Christmas tree was introduced in Germany in the 16th century. Legend tells that the evergreen was chosen and decorated with candles to represent God’s creation and the gift of God’s Son as the Light of the World. This tradition is continued today as we use evergreen trees, strings of lights, and ornaments to decorate the trees in our homes. Decorating for Christmas can be a special “milestone moment” to observe in your home. See the insert for the “Christmas Tree Blessing Milestone”. Take a picture of your Christmas tree and tell us how you used the milestone moment in your home on our Facebook page.

Support Habitat for Humanity and St. Philip Youth

Did you know that our youth are participating in Habitat’s 3rd annual Gingerbread House Build fundraiser? Our middle school and high school youth (along with the leadership of Ms. Melinda) decorated an amazing gingerbread church and scenery! You can view this beautiful creation in the narthex and then vote for it to win first place. To vote, go to <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/gingerbreadbuild2023/> or you can scan the QR code which will be next to the gingerbread house in the narthex. **Voting ends December 19.** There is no restriction on who can vote, so share this with friends and neighbors who can support building affordable housing and hope for all. Each “vote” is a donation to Habitat, with just a minimum cost of only one dollar and the ability to donate as much as you want. There are no limits to the number of times you can vote, so do so as much as you can! Thank you for building homes and hope in our community.

Gift Wrapping

Do you have all your shopping done but are dreading the task of wrapping all those gifts? No worries! The youth can get the job done for you! The youth will be doing Christmas gift wrapping on **Sunday December 10, Wednesday December 13, and Sunday December 17.** You can drop off your gifts anytime between December 10-17 to be wrapped. If you want to pick up the same day you can bring them before church on one of the Sundays and they will be wrapped during church and ready for you to pick up after church. Or you can drop them off at the church office and they will be wrapped and ready for you to pick up on the 17th. The youth are asking for freewill donations to go towards their summer 2024 trip. We will be attending the ELCA youth gathering in New Orleans in July 2024! If you have any questions please contact Melinda, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, at the church office.

Book Club Invitation

First time Colorado authors of "Winter Haven" will be joining us on **Monday, December 11 from 9:30-11am in the Chapel**. If you have any questions, or want to come and see, call or text Sue Miller at 303-619-0661 or Beth Faerber 303-953-9745.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at church in the Fireside Room at 1pm. If you are unable to come to church or prefer to make prayer shawls at home, that would be appreciated as well. Just drop them off at church. Our prayer shawl supply is low at the present time and there is always a need for them. For more information, contact Linda Tegeder at 970-686-8896 or litegeder@msn.com; or Ana Tolentino at 303-949-6088 or atolenti@aol.com.

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Journey to Bethlehem

All are invited to join us for an interactive Journey To Bethlehem on **Sunday December 17 after worship from 10:15 – 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall**. Journey with your family to find the newborn King! Encounter Roman Soldiers, the Magi following a bright star, shepherds on the hillside, angels with glorious news, the tax collector and census taker. Enter the busy village of Bethlehem and shop at the marketplace. Talk with the innkeeper who tells you there is NO ROOM at the inn. And just maybe you will find the tiny baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger!

We need some incredible volunteers to help make this event special. Looking for adults and youth who would love to be a part of this ministry. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ABAE28A5FCCE9-46608490-journey>.

Youth & Young Adult Christmas Party

Everyone is invited to our youth and young adult Christmas party Wednesday, December 20 from 6-8pm at St. Philip. We'll have catered dinner from Chipotle, Christmas games, fellowship and fun! Bring a FUN \$5 gift for a gift exchange. **RSVP by December 15**. Text: 720-984-4106 or Email: [msvenkerud@stphilip-co.org](mailto:msevenkerud@stphilip-co.org).

Volunteer Opportunities/Donations/Service

Christmas Gifts for Family Promise

Do you want to purchase a Christmas gift for a child in need? Family Promise of Greater Denver is hosting a holiday party and they are partnering with local congregations to supply gifts. See the list of items they are specifically in need of in the narthex. All donations are to be placed in the large black collection bin in the narthex **by December 13**.

Opportunity to Assist a Venezuelan Family in Denver

Migrants from Venezuela continue to arrive in Denver almost daily. The Rocky Mountain Synod AMMPARO team recently received a message from the Lutheran Church in Venezuela requesting assistance for a Venezuelan family that recently arrived in Denver and is currently staying at one of the city-sponsored hotel shelters. The Villarroel-Brito family fled Venezuela when they feared for their safety and then spent three

months making their way to the southern border. This family of five includes a mom, dad, two teenagers and a 3 year-old who will celebrate his 4th birthday in December! They have no other family living in the US. The mom's father is a Lutheran pastor in Venezuela!

We are forming a team of congregations and individuals who would like to accompany this family as they apply for asylum and settle into their new life in Colorado. There are multiple ways to help including exploring housing options, companionship and practicing English, transportation, finding work, providing groceries and other basic necessities, and financial assistance - especially to cover housing and legal costs. If you would like to join the team or have ideas to share with the team, please contact Carolyn Swenson from St. Paul-Denver at cjswenson57@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your compassion, prayers and support!

Habitat for Humanity

- 10 spots on **Saturday, January 20** at the new construction site **Mountain View Homes** from **8:50am to 4:30pm**
- 10 spots on **Saturday, February 24** at the new construction site **Mountain View Homes** from **8:50am to 4:30pm**

The link for registration and sign up is holyhammers.denver.volunteerhub.com/. Go to Volunteer Website. In upper right corner click on Create Account. When completing "Affiliations" indicate that you are a Group Volunteer and when asked if you are a member of a Holy Hammers congregation select St. Philip Lutheran Church from the drop down menu. Volunteers must be 16 or older – no experience is needed. Volunteers for Production Shop: Painting can be 14 or older. Contact Rich Allee if you have any questions.

Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry

Thankfully the weather was warmer than expected as we gathered last Thursday to serve **191 families**, substantially fewer than our record-setting Thanksgiving week. For the coming week we can use:

- Canned pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Jelly

We continue to be overstocked with egg cartons and have no additional storage.

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.

Sharing with Sheridan Diaper Collection

We are now collecting diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6 for our food pantry. They can be dropped off in the narthex or the SwS storage bins next to the office. Other ways to participate with our food pantry include transferring computer files or helping with occasional pick up of food on Thursdays. For more information on these opportunities, contact Deacon Korra or Jan Philpy. Thank you for your partnership in helping others in the community.

Lutheran Family Services-Warm Coats Needed

We are starting to see the temperatures drop in Colorado – for our new arrivals from South America and Cuba the cold weather has caught them by surprise. Even though we have a coat drive as part of the Angel Tree program this year, we are finding ourselves in need of warm coats. For this drive we are accepting gently used or new coats. We are looking for both adult men and women, small, medium, large and extra-large and children and infant sizes. Donations can be brought to the narthex collection bin. **The collection will end December 10.**

Events

Augustana Arts

Augustana Arts is pleased to invite you and your family for this holiday classic tale of "The Velveteen Rabbit" featuring celebrated Colorado jazz artist, Hazel Miller, and the Stratus Chamber Orchestra on **Sunday, December 10 at 3pm** at Augustana Lutheran Church (5000 E. Alameda Ave., Denver). Ever heard of "Peter and the Wolf"? This concert is just as fun and exciting with the classic story read by Hazel underscored with music by Stratus! Let's go on a musical journey together plus enjoy other holiday classic music to bring joy and the gift of music for the entire family! **ELCA families receive 50% off all tickets using the code ELCA50 at checkout!** Come and enjoy this matinee treat for the entire family! Tickets are \$20 adults/\$10 children (or \$10/\$5 with code ELCA50) – visit www.AugustanaArts.org.

Bible Studies

Pub Theology

Pub Theology is not your traditional Bible study, it is a gathering of people who drink beer and talk about life and faith. It is a place to get to know others and have good conversation. There are different brews and there are different views, so come join the conversation and hang out with us. We will be meeting at Locavore Beer Works (5950 S Platte Canyon Rd, Littleton), on the left side of the brewery **Mondays at 6:35pm**. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Brad.

Monday Women's Bible Study

Meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at church from 9 to 11am in the Fireside Room. All women are invited to join us. Contact Julia Cooley at 303-903-9651 or jhcool519@gmail.com for more information.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Tuesday evenings at 7pm, St. Philip Men's Fellowship will begin sponsoring a **Family Bible Study for all confirmed members of St. Philip**. This study will take a close examination of the Book of Isaiah, the most significant prophetic book of the Bible. Please come and join us in this exciting look at the book that contains the very basis for our faith. Our study is held every Tuesday evening at the Selander home. (6338 S. Harlan Way Littleton) If you have any questions please call Paul at 303-241-0321 or Laurie at 303-518-1457.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study

We will meet at 9:30am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at church in the Youth Room. We will be watching a DVD series on Biblical Archaeology. All men are welcome to attend. Led by Glenn Isernhagen.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at church, 9:30 to 11:00am

Come and discover the "Seamless" thread connecting the Bible. Author Angie Smith shows us how the Bible is connected, from Genesis to Revelation, as one beautiful seamless thread. The book is available online or at Mardel's. Contact Chris Youngren at 303-973-3096 or ctyoungren@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

Are you wanting to spend time with other ladies and understand how the Bible relates to your life today? Join Deacon Korra on **Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm in the chapel** to explore, "The Good and Beautiful Bible Study; Experiencing stories from the Bible and what it means for our lives today."



Preparing for Worship - December 10, 2023 Second Sunday in Advent
First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11
Second Reading: II Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

Worship Servants for Sunday, December 10, 2023	
Deacon Korra Looschen, preaching; Pastor Brad Doty, presiding	
Assisting Minister	George Rasmussen
Lector	Penny Selden
Communion Servant	Penny Selden
Sacrament Servants	Sandi Stevermer, Lynn Mossbrucker
Greeters	Michael & Dorie Werner
Ushers	Will Rogge, Marc Roswech
Key Keeper	Week beginning Dec. 10: Mike Burgess

Calendar of Events

December 6-17, 2023

<p>Wednesday, December 6 6:00p – Confirmation (FH) 6:00p – High School Youth Group (YR) 6:00p – Men’s Group Planning Mtg (MC-3) 6:00p – Women’s Bible Study (Chapel) 7:00p – Choir Rehearsal (Sanc.)</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 12 5:30a – Sanders Fitness 9:00a – League of Women Voters (MC-3) 10:00a – SPLC Staff Meetings (MC-1) 5:30p – Camp Gladiator 7:00p – Bell Rehearsal (Sanc.) 7:00p – Boy Scouts (FH) 7:00p – Tues. Night Bible Study (offsite)</p>
<p>Thursday, December 7 5:30a – Sanders Fitness 7:30a – Men’s Breakfast (offsite) 5:30p – Camp Gladiator 6:00p – Sat. Ensemble Rehearsal (Sanc.) 6:15p – Pack 47 (MC-4/5) 7:30p – Prayer Team (Zoom)</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 13 9:30a – Men’s Bible Study (YR) 9:30a – Women’s Bible Study (MC-1) 11:45a – SPELC Christmas Program (Sanc., FH) 6:00p – Confirmation (FH) 6:00p – High School Youth Group (YR) 6:00p – Men’s Pizza Night (MC-4/5) 6:00p – Women’s Bible Study (Chapel) 7:00p – Choir Rehearsal (Sanc.)</p>
<p>Friday, December 8 <i>Church office open 8am—noon</i> 5:30a – Sanders Fitness 8:30a – Altaira Flute Ensemble (YR)</p>	<p>Thursday, December 14 5:30a – Sanders Fitness 7:30a – Men’s Breakfast (offsite) 11:45a – SPELC Christmas Program (Sanc., FH) 5:30p – Camp Gladiator 7:30p – Prayer Team (Zoom)</p>
<p>Saturday, December 9 8:30a – Second Wind (FH-1) 10:30a – Al-Anon (MC-3) 11:30a – Al-Anon Business Meeting (MC-3) 12:30p – Piano Recital (Sanc.) 5:00p – Saturday Evening Worship (Sanc.)</p>	<p>Friday, December 15 <i>Church office open 8am—noon</i> 5:30a – Sanders Fitness 8:30a – Altaira Flute Ensemble (YR) 7:00p – Littleton Gem & Mineral (FH)</p>
<p>Sunday, December 10 9:00a – Worship 10:15a – Sunday School (FH) 10:15a – Faith & Fellowship (6th-12th gr. YR) 10:30a – Adult Faith Formation (MC-4/5, MC-3) 3:00p – Ken Caryl Christmas Concert (Sanc.)</p>	<p>Saturday, December 16 9:00a – Cantata Rehearsal (Sanc.) 9:00a – Journey to Bethlehem Set Up (FH) 9:30a – Dipes and Wipes (MC-3, MC-4/5, FS, YR) 10:30a – Al-Anon (MC-3) 5:00p – Piano Recital (Sanc.)</p>
<p>Monday, December 11 5:30a – Sanders Fitness 9:30a – Book Club (Chapel, MC-4/5) 1:00p – Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (FS) 6:35p – Pub Theology (offsite)</p>	<p>Sunday, December 17 9:00a – Worship 10:15a – Journey to Bethlehem (FH) 10:30a – Adult Faith Formation (MC-4/5, MC-3)</p>

Our Prayer List

Members

Dianne Jack, Wauneta Rogge, Jillian Stevens, Roger Bracken, Sandra Fishko, Carolyn Endecott, Tom Booth, Carolyn Smith, Phyllis Kemp, Bob Wagner

Family Members

Missey Dore (Jane Clausen's cousin)	Ryan Ermold (Joanne Ermold's son)
Jason (Phyllis Kemp's nephew)	Jenna Ermold (Joanne Ermold's daughter)
Oliver Rogers (Kay Mosier's great-grandson)	Ron Ermold (Joanne Ermold's husband)
Dianne Votaw (Sandi Stevermer's sister)	Tim Booth (Tom Booth's brother)
Lenny Ermold (Joanne Ermold's nephew)	Lauren Person (Mary Flatley's daughter)
Clarissa Lee (Sharon Peters' niece)	Bruce Johnson (Anne Krause's uncle)
Jenn Moorehead (Renate Muthart's grand-daughter)	Betty Wicklund (Janet Shibly's aunt)
Fred Bratteson (Marilyn Belford's brother-in-law)	Dr. Thomas Flatley (Tom Flatley's father)
Kevin Gilliland (Harriet Truman's son-in-law)	

Friends

Matt Wolbert (Silco)
Mark (Anderson)
Family & friends of Del Huffman (Clausen)
Jane Mattson & family (Cooley)
Conrad & family (Anderson)

Prayers of remembrance and love for all our homebound members.

Prayers of strength, hope, and tranquility for caregivers and healthcare workers.

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.