



The Philippians 2.0

St. Philip Lutheran Church

July/August
2025

Service : Serving our neighbor(s)

Pastor's Message:

St. Philip Lutheran Church has a rich storied past. The late Dr. Harvard Stevens Jr. Pastor Emeritus of Word and Sacrament, provided clergy leadership at St. Philip Lutheran Church from 1991-1994

A third-generation ELCA pastor, he held degrees from Harvard University and Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; he also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Carthage College.

Despite his intellectual fire power, Stevens is beloved as Pastor. One who took time out to listen, to pray, to put pen to paper, as well as diligent study of the Gospel. His signature sermons "What Should We Do?" – Luke 3:7-18; "Who's Blocking Your Light?" – Matthew 15:21-28; were serious inquiries into how Christian life can become reliable intervention to tortured souls.

Nothing short of Jesus saves the sinner will move the needle. Dr. Stevens is one example of St. Philip's roster of Pastors whose obedience to God's will were building blocks that enabled our church to be in reach of our eighty-first anniversary in just a few weeks.

Because of answering the Call, today, we are blessed with privilege. However, privilege is not a right. Moving forward we will be tested like before! What we should have learned from the capable ministries of Reverends Dixon, Tygstad, Keim and Hawkins-Brinkley to name a few. It was "The Other Seventy-two" "in each era that afforded St. Philip out sized ministries that punched well above their weight. We will have to do this again by declaration. Your YES needs to be as fierce as what we are up against. The willingness to make personal sacrifices for the good of the whole, is the same as the word YES. Delete, YES, BUT, in critical times we all face a wicked wind chill. Moving towards our next four years the church must be agile and nimble. To borrow from Dr. Stevens work, that means-lead, follow or get out of the way. Getting it done requires the common sense to know if our own process puts us in jeopardy, especially when faced with day to day change that is consequential to what we can afford to do. We need to adjust, that means controlling interest needs to be sidelined for others to feel their vote counts.

INTERNS

Honoring the Impact: Acknowledging & Appreciating the Contributions of Our Interns

Internships are more than steppingstones; they are bridges between learning and experience, between ambition and accomplishment. In June, we paused to celebrate and acknowledge the remarkable contributions of our interns – individuals whose curiosity, commitment, and energy have left an enduring mark on our organization.

The Vital Role of Interns in our church represent the fresh spirit and innovative mindset that every organization needs to thrive in a rapidly changing world. They arrive with open minds and a thirst for knowledge, eager to apply their academic prowess to real-world challenges. From day one, our interns have demonstrated not only adaptability, but also a keen willingness to tackle whatever is set before them – be it learning new technologies, or supporting ongoing projects with enthusiasm and diligence.

Their efforts extend far beyond routine tasks. Interns bring with them unique perspectives that challenge established norms and spark new ideas. Their questions – borne of genuine curiosity – have led us to perhaps reconsider processes and to seek more efficient, effective ways of operating. In this way, interns contribute not only their time, but also their creativity and critical thinking, enriching our workplace and propelling us forward.

Examples of Impactful Contributions

Many of our interns have worked alongside leadership, providing crucial audio/visual support for Sunday services and Bible Study, offering administrative support, working with our community partner GGC in their garden and penning articles highlighting regional and statewide leadership in food justice and relief, creating beautiful artwork illustrating the rich culture of our community and featuring the church, community garden and downtown Columbus. Their fresh eyes often help identify gaps or opportunities that staff and members may have overlooked.

Problem solving: Their comfort with technology and willingness to experiment has brought about process improvements and, in some cases, inspired new ways of performing certain tasks.

Team Collaboration: Interns' ability to collaborate across multiple units of the church and communicate effectively has fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose. Their eagerness to learn from mentors and peers alike has helped create a culture of inclusivity and growth.

Community Engagement: Several interns have gone above and beyond their assigned roles, volunteering for outreach projects and representing our organization at events. Their enthusiasm in these extracurricular efforts embodies our core values and extends our impact beyond walls of the church.

In keeping with ELCA's theme of *Service*, we decided to follow up June's appreciation celebration of those that so diligently served and continue serving the church over the year, our Interns.

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Their efforts extend far beyond routine tasks. Interns bring with them unique perspectives that challenge established norms and spark new ideas. In brainstorming sessions, their voices have often inspired pivotal shifts in direction. Their questions — borne of genuine curiosity — have led us to reconsider processes and to seek more efficient, effective ways of operating. In this way, interns contribute not only their time, but also their creativity and critical thinking, enriching our workplace and propelling us forward.

Examples of Impactful Contributions

Project Development and Support: Many of our interns have worked alongside leadership, providing crucial IT Support for Sunday services and Bible Study, offering administrative support, working with our community partner GGC in their garden and penning article highlighting regional and statewide leadership in food justice and relief, creating beautiful artwork illustrating the rich culture of our community and featuring the church, community garden and downtown Columbus. Their fresh eyes often help identify gaps or opportunities that staff and members may have overlooked.

Innovation and Problem-Solving: Whether coding solutions to streamline workflow, optimizing databases, or offering input on customer-facing materials, interns have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to turn challenges into opportunities. Their comfort with technology and willingness to experiment has brought about process improvements and, in some cases, inspired new product features.

Team Collaboration: Interns' ability to collaborate across multiple units of the church and communicate effectively has fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose. Their eagerness to learn from mentors and peers alike has helped create a culture of inclusivity and growth.

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our core values and extends our impact beyond office walls.

Personal Growth and Professional Development

While we honor the work that interns have accomplished, it is equally important to recognize the growth that has occurred along the way. Internships are a crucible for professional and personal development. In their time with us, interns have garnered valuable skills — time management, effective communication, adaptability, and leadership — that will serve them well wherever their careers may lead.

Mentors often remark on the impressive transformation interns undergo during their tenure.

From tentative first steps to confident execution of complex tasks, the journey of each intern is a testament to resilience and perseverance. As they encounter setbacks and navigate challenges, interns learn to embrace feedback, refine their approach, and celebrate progress — big or small.

Cultivating a Culture of Recognition

A culture that acknowledges contributions fuels motivation and fosters loyalty. In this spirit, we continually seek to create opportunities for interns to share their stories and showcase their achievements. Regular feedback sessions and informal gatherings provide platforms for interns to shine and for peers to express gratitude.

It is vital to remember that acknowledgment need not be grand or formal. Sometimes, a simple “thank you” or words of encouragement can have a profound impact. By consciously recognizing the work of our interns, we reinforce a culture of appreciation that uplifts everyone in the church.

Long-Term Value and Lasting Connections

The contributions of interns ripple out far beyond the duration of their placements. Many of the

systems, processes, and ideas introduced by interns persist and evolve, continuing to benefit any organization long after their departure. We hope that former and current interns will continue supporting us and even join our church, bringing with them deeper insights and a renewed sense of purpose.

Moreover, the relationships forged during internships often become lasting connections. Interns leave us as ambassadors, carrying our values and reputation into new environments. We take pride in being part of their journeys and remain invested in their future successes.

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

To our interns: thank you. Thank you for your hard work, your optimism, and your willingness to step outside your comfort zone. Thank you for approaching every task — no matter how big or small — with a sense of purpose and pride. Your presence has enriched our church in countless ways and has set a shining example for those who follow.

To the mentors, membership and staff who support our interns: your guidance and encouragement are invaluable. By welcoming interns into your projects and sharing your expertise, you play a pivotal role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to the future, we remain committed to fostering an environment where interns can thrive. We pledge to offer meaningful projects, mentorship, and opportunities for growth. In return, we look forward to welcoming new cohorts of talented individuals whose passion and determination will drive us to greater heights.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Our interns are not simply temporary team members—they are catalysts for innovation, champions of collaboration, and architects of the future. In acknowledging and appreciating their contributions, we not only honor their achievements, but also reaffirm our belief in the transformative power of learning and mentorship.

Let us continue to celebrate the unique gifts each intern brings, and to invest in the growth of those who will one day lead. In doing so, we ensure that our church remains a place of discovery, possibility, and excellence.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT:

Growing & Growth Collective

Open position

GCC is seeking an **Executive Consultant**. Please see the attached job description. If you or someone you know would be interested, please see the 2nd page of the job description for contact details.



Growing and Growth Collective

c/o Partners Achieving Community Transformation
211 Taylor Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43203
614-247-8037 office

GROWING AND GROWTH COLLECTIVE EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

The Growing and Growth Collective (GGC) was founded in June 2020 by a small group of Columbus, Ohio residents who care deeply about the Near East Side, which is a neighborhood of significant wealth inequality and food insecurity. The initial goal was to leverage one community garden on Greenway Avenue to help amplify the number of local Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) in urban agriculture, but quickly after forming, GGC transformed into a network of six greenspaces and a team of volunteers that receives fiscal support from PACT (Partners Achieving Community Transformation).

The 43203-zip code, and the Near East Side as a whole, is what some refer to as a food desert. Since deserts are naturally occurring ecosystems -- and in contrast, lack of access to fresh, healthy food is not naturally occurring -- GGC recognizes this community as one that is experiencing a food apartheid. Food apartheid is the "systematic destruction of black self-determination to control one's food, hyper-saturation of destructive foods and predatory marketing, and blatantly discriminatory corporate controlled food system that results in [communities of color] suffering from some of the highest rates of heart disease and diabetes of all time," according to food justice advocate Dara Cooper.

One way to remedy this history of destruction is to educate people on ways to engage independently and communally in urban agriculture, but first, it is important to recognize the legacy of trauma that exists between Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and the land. The U.S. has a long history of violent land theft, slavery, exploitive labor practices like sharecropping, and many other forms of structural oppression. GGC believes that it is both possible and necessary to build a healthy relationship between BIPOC and the land. We are committed to fostering an empowering narrative around BIPOC engagement in agriculture and we are confident that agriculture can become a multigenerational way of life again for BIPOC, but in a manner that honors heritage and promotes dignity.

As a collective, we bring together novices, experts and anyone in between who wishes to build and strengthen land-based skills; acquire and maintain property for personal sustenance and food-oriented entrepreneurial endeavors; learn about the benefits of specific foods for good health; and make fresh produce available to community members in a convenient and affordable way.

GGC responds to these needs and goals by facilitating culturally-relevant and evidence-based programming under the umbrella of four impact pillars: Agricultural Education in Cities; Food Access & Affordability; Comprehensive Health & Wellness; and Equitable Community Development. With additional administrative support and dedicated personnel, GGC will seed and grow a fifth impact pillar before 2029 that will focus on the Rural-Urban Interface.

Learn about GGC's five-year impact by reviewing the slides that were shown during the annual friend-raiser event, Sow the Seeds for GGC.

See back for position description and application instructions.

**GROWING AND GROWTH COLLECTIVE
EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT JOB DESCRIPTION, CONT.**

The Executive Consultant position will assist with the following milestone objectives (rank ordered):

40% - Organizational Structure and Operations: Facilitate the transition of GGC from being fiscally overseen by Partners Achieving Community Transformation (aka PACT) to becoming a standalone nonprofit organization with federal tax exempt status and all pertinent administrative systems.

30% - Volunteer Pipeline Development and Management: Assess GGC's garden operations, yield productivity, and programmatic needs, and develop a volunteer recruitment, training, and management plan that supports the observed needs.

20% - Donor Stewardship and Impact Sharing: Build rapport with existing, past, and potential funders. Chronicle GGC's impact and share updates with key supporters as required by grant agreements and more broadly for effective donor relations.

5% - Land Management and Ownership Infrastructure: Keep a pulse on factors and possibilities pertaining to land acquisition, retention, and environmental stewardship, especially in terms of necessary documentation that is required by the City of Columbus Land Bank.

5% - Other Duties as Assigned

Qualifications necessary:

- Seasoned nonprofit administration professional who can demonstrate experience with implementation of a strategic plan and fiscal management systems.
- Capacity to build a collaborative culture across partners to ensure effective communication and continuity across systems.
- Qualities of self-motivation, time management, flexibility and cooperation, and the ability to be effective in a dynamic, multicultural work environment.
- Passionate about Social Justice, especially Food Justice and Land Access.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends.
- Reliable transportation.
- Minimum of an Associate's Degree in a relevant area; Bachelor's degree or higher preferred.

Compensation and Description of Contract: This is a grant funded contract. The selected individual will be paid as a 1099 contractor. No benefits will be provided. The range of compensation is \$28 - \$32 per hour based on experience. Estimated hours per year available for compensation is 520 (10-12 hours per week). The contract term(s) will be reviewed annually based on key performance indicators.

Location: Columbus, Ohio area; Hybrid - Mostly remote role.

Target Start Date: October 1, 2025

Reports to volunteer board; Fiscally overseen by PACT; Will work closely with co-founders for day-to-day tasks. No direct reports, but must work collaboratively with GGC's part-time administrator (also a 1099 contractor).

To apply, email ggca.role1@gmail.com with a 1-page cover letter along with your resume by August 31, 2025 as a single PDF.



Visit linktr.ee/growingandgrowthcollective

- Donate
- Join the newsletter email list
- Register for events & explore ways to engage
- Access educational resources on urban ag & food justice
- Questions? ✉ growingandgrowthcollective@gmail.com

What is the Growing & Growth Collective All About?

GGC is a grassroots initiative that encourages participation in urban agriculture as a means of improving health outcomes, deepening civic engagement, and promoting economic empowerment especially for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) across ages and generations on the Near East Side, along side allies.

Do you Live/Work/Socialize near a GGC Garden? Get Involved!

Help Maintain Community Raised Beds

To promote "Food Access and Affordability," GGC maintains community raised beds in several gardens that are used to grow produce for volunteers and residents of the Near East Side.

From June - October, there are weekly and monthly service days during which YOU can help ensure that the plants watered and harvested.

Reserve a Raised Bed for Independent Growing

GGC administers an annual reservation process each spring for numbered raised bed plots in the Hildreth and Greenway gardens. To be learn about the process and to sign up, join GGC's e-newsletter.

GGC's Impact Pillars

Agricultural Education
in Cities

Food Access
& Affordability

Comprehensive
Health & Wellness

Equitable Community
Development

GGC's Garden Locations

Community Raised Beds

21st: 156 North 21st Street

BSPC: 760 East Broad Street

MMCG: 456 North Garfield Avenue

KAC: 835 Mount Vernon Avenue

Community & Reserved Raised Beds

Greenway: 1652 Greenway Avenue

Hildreth: 1201 Hildreth Avenue





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GREENWAY VOLUNTEER
COMMUNITY
GARDEN



GGC'S NETWORK OF GREENSPACES AND COMMUNITY GARDENS:

21st Community Garden (156 N. 21st St.)

Mamie Mack Community Garden on Garfield (456 N. Garfield Ave.)

Hildreth Community Garden (1201 Hildreth Ave.)

Greenway Community Garden (1652 Greenway Ave.)

Julialynne Walker Gateway Learning Garden @ King Arts Complex (835 Mount Vernon Ave.)

Broad Street Presbyterian Church Community Garden (760 E. Broad St.)

Using Technology to Collaborate More Effectively

When working on a group project, especially with people participating from different locations, technology can make a big difference. It helps improve how efficiently and clearly we communicate—and sometimes even helps us finish ahead of schedule!

But for smaller organizations like ours, figuring out *which* tools to use and *how* to use them can be a challenge. We may not have access to the same resources as large businesses, but we do have some tools already at our fingertips—we just don't always remember to use them.

One such tool is **Microsoft Teams**, a platform that allows people to meet and share information remotely. I was reminded of its usefulness during a recent online meeting with a potential new vendor. It made me realize that we could be using this (and other tools we already have access to) more effectively in our church work.

A good example is our recent effort to update the **church directory**. The task required input from multiple people, and while everyone was eager to help, we ran into some differences of opinion—especially about how to define who qualifies as a “member.” That led to thoughtful discussion and even more questions, at least on my behalf:

- Does a member need to be baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church?
- Should they regularly contribute financially and participate in church life?
- Should families be included if their children have grown, moved away, or attend another church but still stay connected?
- Should we recognize different levels of membership, like Seasonal or Associate?

These are important and valid considerations—and they show how even a seemingly simple project can benefit from clear communication and collaboration.

As we continue this work, let's also remember to make full use of the tools we already have. Beyond email, platforms like Microsoft Teams can help streamline the process, keep everyone informed, and ensure that our projects move forward smoothly. It's not just about the software—it's about staying connected and working together more effectively for the good of our church community.



- ♦ This Saturday, August 16, 2025, East High is holding a Back to School Teen Prayer Rally from 1—4 p.m. The first 50 students get free goodies, including a Teen Devotional
- ♦ The Congregational Meeting will be August 24, 2025.
 - ♦ Please be present after the service, there are several important items to vote on.
- ♦ The next church cookout is Saturday, September 6, 2025. Help is needed with cooking, serving and clean-up. It's a good time and delicious food.
- ♦ Vacation Bible School (VBS) is **Saturday, September 27th, 2025**. Please see the bulletin boards; your emails; this newsletter, and/or the website for the agenda and complete details of this event.
- ♦ Items are still need for the Food Pantry. Please see the attached flyer and bulletin boards throughout the church.
- ♦ Active Shooter Training—mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, from 10:30 a.m.—noon. Officer Hannah of the CPD will conduct an onsite active shooter training



Catherine Willis, Raymond Adams, Jr., David Valdez, Naomi Davis, Jean McBroom, Craig Walker, Freddie Jordan, Nina Jackson, Raymel Bowden, JoAnne Jennings, and Matthew Hancock.

St. Philip Lutheran Church invites you to...



**A Day of Bible Study & Empowerment for
Children & Youth**

Pre-K to K | Grades 1-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

1506 EAST LONG STREET, COLUMBUS, OH, 43203

RSVP DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 22

RSVP BY CALLING 614-253-8745 OR
EMAILING SPLCOUTREACH@GMAIL.COM

***PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF
PRE-K & K CHILDREN MUST STAY***



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

Program Theme: “Lead with Light”

Anchored in Matthew 5:14 — *“You are the light of the world.”*

AGE GROUP BREAKDOWN

1. Pre-K to K - 2 volunteers needed (Parent/Caregiver Supervision Required)
2. Grades 1–5 - 2 volunteers needed
3. Grades 6–8 - 2 volunteers needed
4. Grades 9–12 - Pastor + 1 volunteer

10:00 - 10:30 GATHERING & CHECK-IN

- Welcome & Worship Songs (kid-friendly playlist)
- Snack

10:30 - 11:00 OPENING RALLY

- **Skits or Dramatic Reading:** Adult leaders act out “everyday leadership” scene (standing up to a bully & helping out a classmate)
- **Scripture Theme:** *“You are the light of the world...”* (Matt. 5:14)
- **Explanation of Context:** Focusing on hunger relief and food justice because of its importance as a fundamental need
- **Opening Prayer & Scripture Theme:** *“You are the light of the world...”* (Matt. 5:14)
- Break into workshops by age groups

11:00 - 11:30 Scripture Theme Reflection (content according to age)

- Scope of leadership challenges in the world related to hunger relief and food justice
- Reflection on how youth can remain empowered to make a difference in the realm of hunger relief and food justice

11:30 - 12:00 Speak Life: Public Speaking & Affirmation Circle

Focus: Communication & encouragement

Activity: Practice introducing yourself, sharing a favorite value, and giving a peer a compliment.

Mini game: “Pass the Torch” – hold a flashlight/microphone and say something kind to the next person.

Leadership tie-in: Leaders build others up and communicate with confidence.

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch Service (kids will still eat while explanation of next activity occurs)

12:30 - 1:00 ACTION LAB: COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Focus: Hands-on service related to hunger relief and food justice

Activity:

Supplies:

Leadership tie-in: Expands the concept of leadership from interpersonal to communal and shows how small actions can contribute to a better world.

1:00 - 1:30 CREATIVE COURAGE: POSTER & SIGN-MAKING STATION

Focus: Advocacy & voice

Activity: Create posters that express leadership values, kindness campaigns, anti-bullying, community issues, global concerns, etc.

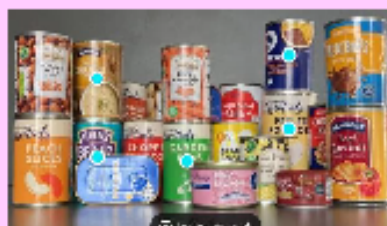
Supplies: Markers, poster board

Leadership tie-in: Teaches how leaders use their voice in visual and public ways.

1:30 - 2:00 COMMUNITY PROTEST: DEMONSTRATE YOUR COURAGE ON LONG ST. & TAYLOR AVE. in Front of St. Philip Lutheran Church! (parent pick up window)

Rain backup plan, be sure to have parents sign a photo release so that kids can be recorded sharing their posters indoors and we post later on social media for a virtual rally.

August Food Pantry Drive



What's requested the month of August:

Unexpired:

- 1. small individually wrapped snacks (candy, etc.)*
- 2. small jars of jelly and peanut butter*

Feel free to leave other non-perishable, unexpired foods. Examples: spaghetti sauce and noodles, corn, green beans, shelf-stable milk, etc.

Please place your food donation in the boxes provided on the bench in the Narthex.

The people in need and the pantry volunteers thank you for your generosity!