

# ST. PHILIP INVITATION



LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE DECEMBER 2017

## A Look Inside

Advent & Christmas	Pages 1&2
Feast @Philip's	Page 2
Stewardship	Page 3
Church Council	Page 3
Faith Formation	Page 4
Youth News	Page 4
Prayer Requests	Page 5
Birthdays	Page 5

## Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 17, at 10:00am**. Members will vote on the annual spending plan as well as having some conversation about the different resources God has entrusted to St. Philip and how those resources are used and invested for ministry. It is important for all of us to be a part of our church's mission and the resources needed to make it happen. Make plans to be present.

## Winter Weather Policy

It's that time of year again. When roads are too dangerous to travel, announcements about worship services will be made on WDBJ7 and WSL Newschannel 10, our website, social media and our robo-call service. Please check these media outlets for cancellation or time change information. As always, use your good judgment because your safety is important to us.

## Advent & Christmas Activities

### Advent: Season of Hope

In Advent, God's people wait with hope for the birth of Jesus, God's anointed one. Advent lasts for four Sundays (and the weeks between them); lighting candles helps us mark the time as we get ready for the Light of World, Jesus Christ. Great memories can be formed as candles on a wreath are lit, scripture is read, and the hopeful anticipation of Christ's coming is celebrated. You are invited to pick up Advent devotions, on a table in the narthex, for you/your family to use during this holy season.

### Advent Night: Potluck, Carols, and Advent Wreaths



**Sunday, December 3rd at 5:30pm.** All are invited to enjoy the culinary creations of the members of your church family at our potluck dinner, then a festive time with a Christmas carol sing along. We will also create family Advent wreaths with fresh greenery, an Advent calendar for kids AND a fun Christmas photo shoot that could be used for your annual family Christmas card!

Come join us as we begin the Advent journey in anticipation of the birth of our Savior!

### Fellowship Luncheon

On December 7, 11am, all are invited to attend St. Philip's Annual Christmas Fellowship Event to help get us in the holiday spirit. The lunch will be held at The Plantation on Sunnybrook. The cost is \$16.42, which includes the full buffet, dessert, drinks, and gratuity. Transportation can be arranged by contacting Cindy Fielder at 915-8154. We hope many can attend Thursday, December 7th! Sign up sheets are in the narthex. You are guaranteed an "extra special" Gift--time spent in fellowship with your church family!

### Chrismon Tree Decorating, Sunday, December 10, before each worship service

A Chrismon tree is a special tree adorned with symbols of Christianity in its earliest days, such as the Alpha and Omega and the fish. Newer symbols like a dove, Bible, rose, and cross and crown can also be used. All decorations and supplies will be provided.



### Christmas Caroling, Sunday, December 10, 5pm

You are invited to share Christmas cheer! Meet at St. Philip. Then groups will head out and about in the Roanoke Valley. Please also bring some cookies to share with folks. Sign-up in the narthex if you plan to join the fun!

### Children's Christmas Program

The children of St. Philip will share the Christmas story at the 5:30pm Christmas Eve worship service. Rehearsals for the children's Christmas program are each Sunday at 9:50am, through December 17.



### Christmas Eve Two opportunities for worship:

**5:30pm** – Candlelight service and youth program

**9:00pm (note the new time!)** – Traditional candlelight service  
Holy Communion will be served at both services.

*Silent Night,  
Holy Night*

## Celebrating Pastor Kelly’s Ministry – Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

With great pride we celebrate with Pastor Kelly her call to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod. Her faithfulness, love for God’s people, creativity, passion, and compassion will now be experienced by an even greater audience.

Please make plans to be present as we lift up Pastor Kelly’s ministry among us at St. Philip. On Sunday, December 10th we will have a reception between worship services to honor her and to give thanks for the wonderful ways she has led us to be better disciples of Jesus. The reception will begin at approximately 9:45am. Come to share stories, a word of thanksgiving, and to

surround her with our very best wishes. Well done good and faithful servant.

If you have suggestions as to how we might honor Pastor Kelly at this event speak with council president Sue Huntington. If you would like to help with the reception speak with Patti Henkel.

### Morning Worship Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve

Because Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve happen on a Sunday this year, **we will worship on both Sunday mornings at 9:30am.** Christmas Eve morning we will light the fourth candle of our advent wreath and conclude our observance of the Advent Season. Then on December 31<sup>st</sup> we will continue our celebration of the Christmas Season by using Lessons and Carols to shape our worship.

### Poinsettia Orders and Elijah’s Backpack Donations

There are two ways to honor a loved one this holiday season.

First if you may place poinsettias around the church on Christmas Eve to help beautify the sanctuary.

The other option is to make a donation to Elijah’s Backpack in honor or memory of a loved one. Donations are \$10, which will provide healthy meals and snacks for one child for one weekend. There are also cards available on the table in the narthex for you to send to your honoree.

Forms for both options are available on the table in the narthex or in your bulletin on Sunday mornings through December 17. Please complete the form – with your payment included – and place it in offering plate.



### Feast at Philips Christmas Day Monday, December 25th 3:00-4:00 pm

Thank you to all who helped cook, serve, and clean up for the Thanksgiving Feast at Philips!!

On Christmas Day, you are invited to serve the community as part of your family Christmas tradition. This year’s Feast will be more to-go boxes for our neighbors, but we will also serve those who come to eat at St. Philip.

How can you help?

- Volunteer to serve at the Feast
- Volunteer to pack to-go boxes for our neighbors
- Purchase and cook a turkey and/or a ham
- Bake a pie or pies
- Volunteer to help set up or clean up
- Make a financial donation to support the Feast (be sure to write “Feast at Philips” on your check)

This is a great opportunity to share God’s love by sharing with our neighbors. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, there is a volunteer sign-up sheet in the narthex with specific duties listed. If you have questions about offering yourself for this feast, speak with one of the pastors. Thank you for your servant hearts!!



## Church Council News - November

*Dan Radmacher*

Council met on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. in the church library. Though most of the meeting was taken up by going over and approving the 2018 spending plan, a good portion of the meeting was devoted to Pastor Kelly's announcement that she has accepted a call to serve as Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod.

This sad and exciting news means major transitions ahead both for St.

Philip and the Derrick family, and council spent some time discussing potential ways to fulfill the many responsibilities that Pastor Kelly currently handles. No decisions were made, except to keep Pastor Kelly's compensation in the spending plan so resources would be available for future staffing decisions.

Council continued to wrestle with the spending plan, approving a plan with a hefty \$17,000 shortfall. The fixed expenses of funding the church — staff compensation, utilities, maintenance and upkeep — continue to outpace

giving in recent years. While St. Philip is blessed with resources, including substantial endowment and investment funds, council wants to make sure those are used in a responsible and sustainable fashion.

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m. to discuss and approve the spending plan.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend.

## Thank You for Your Generosity

*Pastors David and Kelly*

It is so important to say thank you. St. Philip is a community that practices generosity. That generosity takes shape in so many ways. Thank you. As we celebrate that generosity know that we are always hopeful for expanding the ways we live out mission and ministry. Please prayerfully consider making an additional gift as the calendar year comes to a close.

We are active in so many ways, but know that for Christ's sake there is always more we might do. Remember that gifts made through December 31st count as charitable donations for the year 2017. You can also be creative in your giving

Consider:

1. Consider increasing your offering so that we finish the year in a strong financial position. If 80 St. Philip families gave just an additional \$100 between now and the end of the year, we would

cancel that deficit and finish in the black. Your pastors are committed to making that additional contribution and invite you to do the same.

2. Giving stock. Pay no tax on capital gains when donating stock to a church.
3. Visiting the St. Philip website and set up a regular gift to ministry of St. Philip electronically.

\* please speak with your accountant or tax advisor for details concerning charitable gifts.



## Listen God is Calling

Thank you to all of you for the many ways you serve God's church through the ministry of St. Philip. Truly our calling is about God's work and our hands. If you have been thinking about ways to connect to the ministry at St. Philip and have not been quite sure how to start please consider serving by:

### Offering Counter Coordinator

Each Sunday we are blessed by the generosity of the people of St. Philip and each week some quiet servants make sure that financial offerings are counted and recorded before being deposited in the bank. We need someone to help train and coordinate this group of quiet servants. Speak with Pastor David if you might help with this ministry.

### Photographers

This is for everyone. Please, please take pictures of ways mission and

ministry is happening through the community of St. Philip. Then share them with Laura our office administrator to be celebrated on our St. Philip website and social media.

### Worship Assistants

Ushers, acolytes, power point clickers, sound system operators, readers, communion assistants. This is absolutely a great way to live out your faith on Sunday morning. Speak with Carol Dillman at 8:30am worship and Mary Jo Sahn at 11am worship.

## ADULT Faith Formation



### Faith in Real Life (Sundays, 10am, in the library)

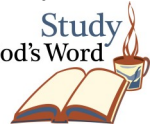
Jesus said: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Matthew 22:37-39)

But how do we do that, exactly? How do we live our faith in daily life? How do we understand the intersection of our faith with our social, political, and religious views? These are the sorts of questions that are central to Faith in Real Life!

All are invited for an open and positive format on Sunday morning as we work to build the bonds of fellowship and connect our faith with the events of everyday life. Please grab a cup of coffee in café and join the discussion.

### Monday Morning Bible Study: Monday mornings

**9:30am-10:30am.** Study God's Word of scriptures that follow the Narrative Lectionary readings on Sunday morning. This is a great way for you to come to Sunday morning worship ready to be engaged with the word as the story is told. If you have not been a part of the Bible study crew now is the time to try it out. The crew meets in the church library.



## Children’s Faith Formation

*[Jesus] called a child, whom he put among them, and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*  
(Matthew 18.2-4)

Children’s Faith Formation happens in the worship service – where kids participate in the central communal act of god’s people, worshipping together! Jesus invites us all to have the faith of a child. Let’s learn from the children of St. Philip about how to live like that!

Check out the Kid Central table in the narthex with each week’s Children’s Bulletin, story books, Spark Family booklets, Bible story books, and the kids Busy Bags with crayons, activities, etc. The table is low so kids can get to the materials.

Let the little children come!

## Youth News

(More details are available in your email and texts)

**Youth Group:** Both Middle School and High School Groups meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 4-6pm, with dinner for all at 5:30pm. Come join the fun!!

### December:

- 1st (Fri); 6-9pm – Hosting Kid Fun Night fundraiser

- 1st – 2nd (Fri – Sat) – Lock-In for ALL youth (at St. Philip)
- 17th – Middle School & High School Youth Group

### January:

- 7th – Middle School and High School Youth Groups
- 21st – Middle School and High School Youth Groups

- 26th – 28th (Fri-Sun): Winter Celebration: Youth Retreat for 9th – 12th graders



### Youth Faith Formation:

Middle School and High School Faith Formation is part of Sunday Youth Group. We use lots of different materials: re:form Bible study, videos, conversation, and “burning Jesus questions” (but why would we want to burn Jesus?!).

## Welcome New Members

On Sunday, November 19, St. Philip welcomed two new families into the community of Christ.

### The Schermer Family

Maribeth, Irene, and Ethan Schermer have recently moved to Virginia from the Chicagoland area. The family lives in Troutville. Maribeth is a Special Education Teacher at Salem High School. Irene, Maribeth’s mother-in-

law and Ethan’s grandmother, has made the move to continue as care giver to Ethan who is three years old. The family is enjoying living in Virginia. Each member of the family feels blessed to have found St. Philip.

**Ian and Karen Lowdon** live nearby and are excited to become members of a new church community. They have been in the Roanoke Valley since 1985 and arrived right before the flood.

Ian recently retired after practicing general dentistry in Roanoke and spends his time singing with various groups, reading, taking classes at Roanoke College, and working on his golf game.

Karen is a hospital pharmacist at Carilion Roanoke Memorial and enjoys reading, yoga and being outside.





Dear St. Philip Family,

I am recuperating and receiving therapy at home now. I have been blessed to come back to church the past several Sundays. I have been going over my cards again and enjoying them even more the second time! Well over 100, mostly from you at St. Philip. Again I want to thank you for all your prayers and cards of encouragement.

Love and God's Peace,  
Margaret Mitchell

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### Noisy Offering

On the third Sunday of each month children collect coins during worship to support the Mponela Parish in Malawi. So far in 2017, they have collected an average of \$130 each month. That's over \$1,400 in your spare change for to support ministry in Malawi! Thank you for your gifts in 2017.

Occasionally our counters also find other unusual and fun things in the noisy offering. Those items include:

- Buttons
- Batteries
- Coins from other countries including Malawi, England, Canada, Ecuador, Mexico, and the Bahamas
- Chuck-E-Cheese tokens
- Car Wash tokens
- Wheat pennies
- Canadian 2 cent piece
- Plastic quarter

### Witnessing Paws

*Sybille Nelson*

On November 18 Witnessing Paws Pet Therapy Ministry evaluated five Pet Therapy Teams. Four teams out of the five passed their evaluation and three of them completed the Witnessing Paws scholarship pledge!

Bella and Judy Brammer served for the first time as the Neutral Dog Team to help with one of the required evaluation segments. They did great!

The following folks generously gave of their time to help us with the evaluations and clean up:

Linda Rhodes, Al Simpson, Rosie Falk, Cindy Fielder, Ruth Heinzleman, Bob Hogan, Pat Quillen, Mark Nelson, Diane Stover with Gyp, and Judy Brammer with Bella.

The ministry would like to extend a special thank you for the fellowship hall and kitchen to be so super clean. This was GREATLY and DEEPLY appreciated!



### Prayer Requests

*From time to time, please keep the church office informed of changes or deletions to the prayer list.*

- Scott Buchanan – Member
- Calvin Knotts – Member
- Judy Diekow – Member
- Kathryn Buchanan – Member
- Betty Hammond – Member
- Rev. Bob Ward—St. Philip Friend
- Bobbie Sahagun - Michaels' friend
- Kitty Nease - Member
- JoAnn Michael - Member
- Ruth Albertin - Juli Albertin's mother
- Rusty Johnson - Dolly Johnson's son
- Dolly Johnson - Member
- Forest Kanode - Kanodes' grandson
- Jamie Hinkle - Kanode's friend
- Emily Totten - Member & Scott Buchanan's sister
- Glenda Adkinson - Carol Goad's friend



### Birthdays

DECEMBER

- Rod Dillman - 2
- Genie Brown - 7
- Rhonda Wilhelm - 17
- Lauren Reckling – 17
- Paul Henkel - 17
- Jessica Leonard - 19
- Dolly Johnson – 21
- Malinda Britt – 21
- Allen Britt - 22
- Tracey Schult
- Bob Henderson - 20
- Matthew Leonard – 26
- Doris Waldron – 28

St. Philip Invitation—December 2017

St. Philip Lutheran Church  
8115 Williamson Road  
Roanoke, VA 24019

Change Service Requested

**David C. Derrick, Senior Pastor (pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net)**  
**Kelly D. Bayer Derrick, Pastor (pastorkelly@stphiliplutheran.net)**  
**Laura J. Latham, Office Administrator (officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net)**  
**Judy Burnette, Director of Music Ministries (music@stphiliplutheran.net)**  
**Teresa Siler-Lee, Nursery Attendant**  
**Jody Draper, Custodian**  
**Danielle Murray, Director of Preschool (preschooldirector@stphiliplutheran.net)**

**Church Council - 2017-2018**

Sue Huntington, Council President; Paul Henkel, Council Vice-President; Peter Shick, Treasurer;  
Kari Callanan, Financial Secretary; Linda Duncan Rhodes Council Secretary  
Members: Nick Muir, Max Holland, Chuck Jecminek, Dan Horine,  
Dan Radmacher, Sarah Parker, and Candace Underwood

St. Philip Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
The Reverend Bob Humphrey, Bishop, Virginia Synod

