

ST. PHILIP INVITATION

LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE DECEMBER 2017



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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.

Forwarding Faith

Pastor David

Get Ready! Starting in January, we're going to be talking about Forwarding Faith, an initiative from the Virginia Synod to provide sustained support for youth ministry and faith formation in the Synod.



Forwarding Faith is a campaign to ensure that great ministry for youth in the Virginia Synod not only continues but flourishes. The goal is to raise \$2.5 million dollars from congregations across the synod. This cumulative gift will provide an endowed position and infrastructure that will support youth events and faith formation for years to come.

The programs provided by the Virginia Synod are unique in the United States and are absolutely life changing for those who have participated. Please, please ask any of our youth (or adults!) about their experience at Seventh Day or Lost and Found or Winter Celebration. St. Philip has an incredibly strong history and passion for youth ministry and faith formation starting at St. Philips' inception, continuing through Pastor Chip Gunsten, and ongoing as a part of our ministry today (Pastors Kelly and David met through a synod youth event!).

Our invitation to you is to **participate**.

We seek to have everyone participate even if you are unable to make a financial contribution. Participation means we would like for you to have the opportunity to **decide**. You do not have to give to participate. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 over a three-year period.

If you want to learn more about the campaign in general visit forwardingfaith.org or to learn more about St. Philip's efforts speak with Sarah Parker or Pastor David. You will hear much more in January!

We Live Like That Everywhere We Go

Tag. You're it!

We want to Live Like That in our worship, through our shared ministry at St. Philip, and in our daily living. Be sure to share your stories of how you Live Like That: Love, Feed, Serve by jotting down on the back of one of our Live Like That tags your experiences. Then hang your tag on the cross in the gathering space (narthex) as a sign of the multiple ways we live out the faith together. One of my resolutions for 2018 is to be intentional about thanking folks for the ways, I see them living the faith. If you get tagged by Pastor David be sure to attach it to the cross in the gathering space.



Thank you, St. Philip!

Pastor Kelly

St. Philipians, I cannot begin to thank you enough for all you are and all you have meant to me over the years of ministry we have shared.

First, a giant thank you for your kindness in wishing me Godspeed. For the many, many cards and notes. For the lovely flowers, loads of dark chocolate, and delicious cake. For the “wordle,” which will always remind me of the faithfulness and fun you all share so generously! For the gift of stained glass to reflect the cross and windows of St. Philip, reminding me always of the roots of my ministry. For

the fabulous ruby slippers, so I can click my heals three times and think of you!

I thank you also for your faithfulness to the gospel, for your generous hearts in serving our neighbors, for your compassion toward one another, for your laughter and joy in fellowship, for your willingness to take risks for the sake of the gospel for the sake of the world. I thank you for shaping into the pastor I am today.

You have challenged me and strengthened me. You have supported me and walked with me in our ministry together. I know that God has great things in store for this congregation

because God has shown the work of God’s mighty arm already at work in and through you all, faithful disciples and servants. I will keep you in my prayers as you listen to the Holy Spirit’s guidance in what is next. I will keep Pastor David and the leadership of St. Philip in my prayers as they strive to continue God’s mission in and through St. Philip.

I give thanks to God always for you, because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus.

Peace+
Pastor Kelly

We are church together.

St. Philip is a vibrant, active, hopeful community of faith that is always being formed and yes reformed into a new creation for the sake of the gospel. As St. Philip enters a time of transition in regards to staffing, your St. Philip council has approved using up to \$7000 to provide transitional staff support while we discern our needs, our vision, and our focus for the future. The primary function of transitional staff will be to connect people to

ministry! Already you the good people of St. Philip have started stepping up for ongoing ministry needs.

Thank you to:

- Rod Dillman who will be coordinating property and facility needs. If you notice something not working speak with Rod or call him at 293-8867.
- Malinda Britt and Mike Parker who will be helping add leadership for our youth ministry particularly

hanging out with our high school youth.

- Juli Albertin who will be coordinating our intergenerational faith formation service projects.
- Elizabeth Reiter will help shape our monthly Family Ministry Gatherings.

There are a bunch of others helping coordinate our feeding ministries, our youth activities, and so much more. It is all a sign that God’s got us!

Live Like That: Love, Feed, Serve

Pastor David

Love, Feed, Serve is not slogan; it is mission, it is purpose, and it is identity. St. Philip is an active community of faith, compelled by God’s grand gift of love to share that same love with others. As we move into the year 2018 there will be new opportunities, new ministries, new challenges, new possibilities and all that new stuff should be greeted with faith and hopefulness. In the coming weeks all kinds of new will start to take shape.

One of the biggest changes on the horizon is supporting and resourcing ministry in new and creative ways. With Pastor Kelly’s transition to a new call with the Virginia Synod, St. Philip will explore ways to support and staff

ministry in the short term. Dozens of you have approached me graciously offering your gifts and support as we figure out together the “what’s next”. I thank you in advance for your faithfulness, and know that you in fact will be called upon!

The second piece of the support and resourcing puzzle will be discerning how we might utilize staff most effectively for the most mission focused future. Again, many of you have already begun to share with me your thoughts on what staffing might look like at St. Philip. There is a wide range of suggestions and perspectives! Your St. Philip Church Council has already begun that conversation and we will want to engage you in a more general conversation in the weeks ahead. I am convinced as the discernment process unfolds, it is

really important for us not to box ourselves with preconceived assumptions. So please be ready for opportunities to share your thoughts as we deliberately invoke God’s Spirit (Pray please), enlist a broad swath of ideas, hopes, and dreams, and embody a willingness to have all options on the table.

Lastly on a personal note, please know that I am in fact okay. Again, many of you have checked in with me in terms of my state of mind and emotional well-being. I am excited for our future together. I love St. Philip deeply and cannot wait to discover where God might be leading us next. I most certainly see God’s love epitomized in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and believe wholeheartedly we are called to live as Jesus would have us live – to Live Like That.

Church Council News - December

Dan Radmacher

December 2017 Church Council Notes

Church council met Tuesday, December 12, at 7 p.m. in the church library. Discussion centered on preparation for the December 17 congregational meeting and planning for the transition of Pastor Kelly's departure.

Council President Sue Huntington prepared a Google document outlining Pastor Kelly's responsibilities and council discussed how best to handle

those in the short term, including approaching congregation members to serve as volunteers to lead some ministry programs. Several potential volunteers were identified to be approached.

In addition, council approved spending \$7,000 to pay for additional administrative assistance between January and June 2018.

Pastor Kelly said the Virginia Synod could provide tools to help the church decide on a long-term plan for moving forward, including a congregational site plan that could help the

congregation decide the church's needs and directions.

Council agreed to raise the salary of the nursery attendant who cares for children during services from \$10 an hour to \$12 an hour.

Pastor Kelly used her last pastor's report to say how proud she was of St. Philip and that she was honored and humbled to have been able to serve here.

Council will meet January 9 at 7 p.m. in the church library. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Take Action On A Cause You Care About!

St. Philip is a community of faith ACTIVE in ministry. I hear that comment all the time from colleagues, other churches in our community, neighbors, and friends. I love that people around us have noticed and I truly hope that the activity among us points directly to the God who loves us unconditionally.

Let's not stop! Let's stay ACTIVE! Let's keep exploring where God is calling us to LOVE, FEED, SERVE!

As we are active in ministry, you should know that Thrivent Financial

Services, a Lutheran fraternal organization that provides financial planning, wants to help. Many of you have used Thrivent's services and by way of that partnership are "Thrivent Members".

It starts with an idea. Is there an unmet need that you want to impact? Why not bring a team together and take action - a one-time fundraiser, service activity or education event that can be completed within 90 days.

Thrivent will help you get started, it's easy! It's called an Action Team and it's a benefit of membership. Members can request up to \$500 per year, in amounts of \$250 per request.

Several St. Philip folks have already taken advantage of this program to provide food and transportation for our holiday feasts, but there are grants available for much, much more.

If you would like to learn more about putting together an Action Team or even like a suggestion or two as to what might be your project please speak with Maribeth Schermer or Pastor David and we will help! How great would it be for this active congregation to LOVE, FEED, and SERVE with a little seed money to help the cause?



Check it out!

Please take some time to venture into our church library and discover some new additions:



A New Resource: Rick Steves Luther and the Reformation DVD. This one hour exploration of Luther sites in Germany was first seen on public

television is available on DVD to borrow.

New Technology: A new television with computer in the library has already proved to be a great resource for meetings, but plans are in the making to make bible study available by way of video conference. That's right you can participate in bible study from your

home. This resource will allow us to broaden our communication and widen the kind interactions for faith formation.

Our church library is a wonderful place for us to gather together and to grow in the faith, but it is also intended to be a place of wonderful resources.

So check it out!!!

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!

Intergenerational Faith Formation

January 14 (10-10:45am), ALL ages will gather between worship services for a short bible story



followed by a service project. Just for 45 minutes, 10-10:45am. Just once per month. In January, in honor of the visit of the Magi to baby Jesus, we will make cards and goodies for St.

Philip's members who are sick and homebound. We encourage everyone to be part of these gatherings! If you'd like to help with these in any way, please speak with Juli Albertin.

Family Faith Formation Sunday, January 28, 4-6pm

For St. Philip families, especially those with children age birth – 5th grade.

What will we do at Family Faith Formation?

- Play games!
- Learn a bible story!

- Kids and families can get to know each other better
- And families can practice sharing bible stories and fun together

This fun-filled opportunity will be led by Pastor David. Dinner for all will be served at 5:30pm and provided for you by a St. Philipian

The hope of this gathering is to provide regular time for families to gather in faith, fun and fellowship, much like the youth groups currently gather. There will not be childcare because kids of all ages are part of this gathering! Hope everyone can join in the fun!



Thank you!!!

A giant thank you to all of the children who presented the Christmas pageant this year! Thanks for your singing, your acting, and your faithful silliness! And a humongous thank you to Jen Schult for leading and directing the Christmas pageant. Thank you!!!

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!!



January:

- 7th (10am)** – Fat Tuesday Steak dinner meeting
- 7th** – Middle School and High School Youth Groups
- 14th (4-5:30pm)** – ELCA Youth Gathering meeting @ St. Philip
- 26th – 28th (Fri-Sun):** Winter Celebration: Youth Retreat for 9th – 12th graders

February:

- 4th** – Souper Bowl of Caring
- 4th** – Super Bowl Party
- 13th (Tuesday)** – Fat Tuesday Steak Dinner
- 18th** – Middle School and High School Youth Groups



Care Package Thank You's

In November, care packages were sent to college students and other members of our congregation living away from Roanoke. St. Philip will collect small items and snacks for those folks again in the spring. Please see Laura Latham if you have items you'd like to donate.

Thank you for the goody box. I got it today. I wanted to wish you all a nice holiday.

Scott Buchanan

Hello! I received the package you all sent me. Thank you so much! Please tell everyone I say thank you
Nathan Seifert

Thank you guys so much for the care package. Definitely needed an end of the week pick me up.
Harrison Toney

Resolve to "be there"

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

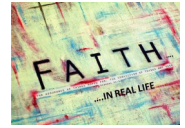
~Goran Persson

Kindness is like snow — it beautifies everything it covers.

~Kahlil Gibran

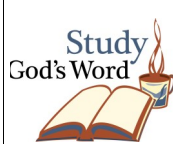
ADULT Faith Formation

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 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.



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

JANUARY

Jerry Falk - 2
Jim Reckling - 4
Cheryle Neeley - 6
Robbie Fielder - 10
Jake Stanley - 13
Glenn Kanode – 16
Zippie Smith - 16
Chuck Miller - 17
Rosie Falk – 21
Rod Dillman – 22
Madora Dooley - 25
Kim Farmer – 25
Laura Latham – 28

St. Philip Invitation—January 2018

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

Change Service Requested

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

