

# St. Philip Invitation

LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE NOVEMBER 2020



## Blood Drive Thank You

Thank you to all of our donors and dedicated volunteers for making the 2020 Saint Philip Blood Drive a success! 89 pints of blood were collected! Each donated pint can save up to three lives, so the donations collected at St. Philip could go on to save 267 lives. Especially in the midst of the pandemic, there is a great need for blood donors. The blood drive team is grateful for the team effort and for the opportunity to serve the community. Mark your calendars for May 2021 for the next drive!

## Amazon Smile

As the Christmas shopping season comes remember to use Amazon Smile. Through AmazonSmile, Amazon.com will make a donation to St. Philip at no cost to you. Use the link below or search for St. Philip Lutheran Evangelical Church on the Amazon Smile site. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1087322>. For each purchase you make Amazon.com donates a small percentage of the proceeds to St. Philip. Over time, this money can add up to help support the ministry of our congregation.

And for you Prime members out there, yes you can still use your Prime Membership when you shop with Amazon Smile.

**CORRECTION: At the November 10 meeting of the St. Philip Church Council, the leadership body voted to postpone a return to indoor worship. Please see the letter on the main page of the website for more information.**

## Return to Indoor Worship

*Pastor David and Pastor Laura*

The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed presented many challenges for all of us, perhaps most challenging of all is the inability to gather as we normally do. We've missed connecting in-person and sharing faith and fellowship in the "normal" ways. But, we give thanks that throughout this pandemic we have not ceased to be a church community! True to the St. Philip mission statement, we have continued to love, feed, and serve - just in different ways! Most importantly, we have continued our worship life together through weekly digital worship service, conference call, and drive-up services.

At the October meeting, the St. Philip Church Council voted to return to indoor worship on November 15, 2020. This is an important decision and this article will give you some helpful information. First, the return to indoor worship will not change current digital offerings. Open Doors online service will still happen at 11am on Sundays, while also being posted on the church website and Facebook page. We will also continue to offer the conference call service at 11am. If you feel most comfortable continuing to worship in this way, please do! Christ meets us right where we are and unites us a community, even while worshipping in different spaces.

The indoor worship service will be one service at 9:30am with overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall, if needed. While we are returning to indoor worship, this does not mean that the threat of the pandemic is gone! We want to gather together to worship but will do so in a way that follows public health guidance. Masks and social distancing will be observed. Music will be included in a variety of ways during the service, but there will be no congregational singing. We will commune in our seats, much like the drive up service. If you, or a member of your family is not feeling well, or is quarantined, please worship digitally.

As we get closer to November 15, the pastors will release a video that will better explain what return to indoor worship will look like. The goal is to provide as much information as possible so that when we gather for worship, the practices will feel familiar and not distracting. As we take this step forward, the pastors and church council ask for your patience, understanding, and prayers as we move forward.

## Tuesday Prayer - 9am to noon

*Pastor Laura*

The pastors are excited to continue to have the sanctuary open for prayer from **9am to noon**. The sanctuary will be open for prayer every Tuesday in November from 9am to Noon for anyone who would like to come and use the space for prayer and meditation. When you enter the sanctuary, there will be a paper resource with listed prayers that you are welcome to pray. Please take a paper and leave it in your seat when you have finished, so that someone else will know not to sit there. It will also be a tangible reminder that our church community is still united in prayer while we are physically distanced. If you are not the only person in the sanctuary, please wear a mask. We are grateful for the ability to gather in prayer in a meaningful way.



## All Saints' Sunday

Pastor David

"All" includes some most beloved to us. "All Saints" calls to mind specific individuals: particular beloved faces, names and memories. This past year particularly grief, anxiety, frustration, and fear have certainly been prevalent. We may be all too aware of the particular names we are now carrying with us toward All Saints' this year—names of those who have died in the past months. All Saints' Sunday is always a chance to boldly remember we are a people of hope.

"All" includes those beloved by others. "All Saints" creates a space that embraces with honor the multitudes of individuals among the beloved dead. We see their faces, say their names, and recognize in the worshipers around us others who carry their own

memories and litanies of saints. All Saints sets out a place for all of them. All Saints brings into focus our own beloved dead while also stretching our imagination toward the whole company of saints, more diverse and populous than we can fully comprehend.

"All" are saved by grace. The festival originally honored those who were considered especially holy: heroic figures from the Scriptures and martyrs who had given their lives nonviolently in witness to the faith. However, it is an especially Lutheran accent for the feast to honor not only those who lived exemplary lives, but all who have been baptized into Christ's death. For Lutherans, All Saints resonates with the conviction that in Christ every saint is a sinner and every sinner a saint, *simul justus et peccator*. Lutherans especially remember on this

feast that it is God's grace, apart from our works, that makes us saints. We find lasting rest only in the mercy of God.

As the St. Philip congregation worships virtually this All Saints' Sunday on November 1, you are encouraged to set up a home worship space to enhance your worship experience. You can be as creative as you'd like with your space, but the pastors encourage you to include a candle to represent the light of Christ, a small bowl of water to remind you of your baptism, a cross, and pictures and/or written names of your loved ones who have now joined the Church Triumphant. May this worship space remind you that you are never alone and never without the love of God in Christ that unites us all.

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## Church Council News – October 2020

Linda Duncan Rhodes

Council met on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Treasurer Peter Shick reports receipts for month ending September 30, 2020 of \$18,357.58, and year-to-date receipts of \$189,725.12. Expenses in September were \$23,455.17, and year-to-date expenses are \$172,605.27. Giving to the general fund is down

\$14,660.17 from this time last year. However, we have maintained a positive cash flow and anticipate ending the year by breaking even.

Council approved indoors worship to resume on Sunday, November 15 with one service beginning at 9:30 am. There will be limited seating in the Sanctuary with overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall. There will be new protocol for this service and the congregation will be notified of the details. Changes in the plans for this

service may change as needed. The on-line service will continue.

Council approved the Pastors to selection for the Portico Healthcare Silver Plan with a Health Savings Account.

A bid for \$7,994.00 was received and accepted from Carpetland to replace the carpet in the aisles, pulpit and altar areas in the sanctuary.

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## Confirmation

Why is confirmation important? What does it mean to affirm your faith? Here is what confirmands Griffin Horacek, Ella Johnston, Ridge Radtke, and Leah Horine had to say.

### Griffin Horacek

Confirmation is important to me because I believe it is the next step in my faith. At baptism I had godparents to speak for me. Now I have the chance to publicly announce my faith in God.

### Leah Horine

What confirmation means to me is confirming that I understand what God's word is and what it means to believe in God. That you still choose to love and support Him no matter what He does. That no matter how hard life may get that you have hope and pray. To believe that God has a plan, and to believe that if something happens, to believe that God saw something you didn't, so you need to trust in Him. :)

### Ella Johnston

Confirmation is important to me because it strengthens my relationship with God. I've learned the reasons behind why we do certain things, like communion, in church. Confirmation is my way of publicly saying, "I am a child of God."

### Ridge Radtke

Confirmation is important to me because I'm able to get a better understanding of God and Christianity as a whole. I feel like I have a deeper connection to God having done Confirmation. I also got to meet some great people along the way.

## Feast at Philips is ON!

*Pastor Laura*

On November 28, St. Philip will again host the Feast at Philips event to love, feed, and serve the Roanoke community in the holiday season. As with many things, the Feast will look different to ensure we are serving safely, but we are grateful for the opportunity to serve. This year, the

congregation will be serving to-go meals only. All meals will be packaged at St. Philip and then distributed throughout the community - first responders, assisted living centers, apartment communities and other members of the community. Additionally this year, St. Philip will be partnering with Trinity Lutheran on Williamson Road to distribute meals to community members from their

location. To accomplish this, the Feast team will certainly need your help! Information will be sent out soon on how to help, but go ahead and mark the date on your calendar. Cooked hams, turkeys, food packagers, trucks for delivering food, food deliverers, and financial donations will all be needed. Thank you in advance for the awesome ways you support this important community ministry.

## Thrivent Action Teams

Attention Thrivent members! (This is anyone who owns a Thrivent financial product – if you are not sure if you are a member speak to Max Holland) Did you know that as a Thrivent member you have access to \$250 of seed money for community service activities? Called Thrivent Action Teams, this program is a wonderful gift Thrivent shares with our faith

community!

There is an online form to complete that is very short. It asks for a name of your event, a short paragraph on who it will benefit and what you intend to purchase, and then asks if you need thank you letters and marketing/advertisement types of things from Thrivent. It takes maybe five minutes to complete. They approve your request and then send you a packet

with the items you have asked for and a \$250 gift card for you to utilize. We do our event, and write back to them about its success. It is really that simple.

And as Thrivent members we get to do this twice a year! **It is not too late for you to take advantage of this opportunity to put together a team with some seed money for your project before the end of the year.**



## Celebrating Diverse Pastoral Voices

*Pastor David*

So much has happened in this most unique year of 2020. Many of those changes and happenings have stirred deep emotions and impacted everyone in some way. In the midst of it, the constant renewing hope for us is that Jesus constantly does a new thing, constantly brings about life in the midst of uncertainty. It is this ongoing promise that makes 2020 also a year of celebration!

Did you know that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women as pastors in the Lutheran church? Did you know that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the ordination of black women as pastors in the Lutheran church? Did you know that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the ordination of LGBTQIA+ pastors in the Lutheran church?

Though once excluded, the rich

harmony of these voices has added immeasurably to the life and leadership of church. The diverse gifts and perspective of these pastors, wonderfully and faithfully speaks to how God is calling us to mission in the world!

At St. Philip, we have experienced this harmony at least in part as we have been served by two extraordinary women: Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick and currently by Pastor Laura Dunklin. At worship on Sunday, November 22 we will mark these special anniversaries as we gather (Rev. Elizabeth Platz was ordained in the Lutheran Church on November 22, 1970). We celebrate the power of God's Holy Spirit as we remember these significant happenings from our past and we celebrate God's Spirit calling us to continue to listen for new things Jesus does today. Please plan to be present online or in-person on November 22!

As we celebrate these powerful anniversaries, we also look forward to

the ways future leaders of the church will continue to enrich the whole church and its proclamation of the gospel. The ELCA has a scholarship program called "Fund for Leaders." The ultimate goal of this program is to fully fund the seminary educations of all ELCA students seeking rostered ministry. Pastor Laura was a recipient of a full-tuition scholarship through this program.

In recognition of these anniversaries and in a desire to support diverse leadership, Fund for Leaders has established two new scholarships named for the first white woman and woman of color (Rev. Earlean Miller) ordained in the Lutheran church. Priority will be given to Lutheran women and women of color for receiving these scholarships. St. Philip will be making a contribution to these scholarships. If you would also like to make a contribution, please either mail a check to the church office with the memo noted for Fund for Leaders or give at our online platform and denote the contribution as "Fund for Leaders."

## Faith Formation News

### Kids

As we continue through Fall into Winter, Kids' Faith Formation will continue to use the Spark curriculum activity pages. Every Sunday, St. Philip will release a

Story and Song video that tells the story of the week and teaches a fun song. After viewing the video, children aged 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to complete the corresponding activity pages. These activity pages allow young people to learn more about the story and even includes ideas for "taking faith on the go!" There will no longer be a Zoom at Noon on Sundays as the congregation transitions to worshiping online and in-person, both of which will include a children's message. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Laura.

### Youth

(More details are available in your email and texts)

Youth Group Outside: Both Middle School and High School Groups meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month, 4-6pm, with dinner for all at 5:30pm. Come join the fun!! We will meet via Zoom if there is inclement weather.

### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Hot dogs, s'mores and conversation around the campfire group at St. Philip 4-6pm.
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Regular youth group at St. Philip 4-6pm - dress to be outside!
- 20 - 21<sup>st</sup> - Lost and Found Youth Event for Middle School - ONLINE

A huge thank you to the congregation for your support of youth ministry.



### Adults

Faith formation is a lifelong experience! Some of that happens on your own as you study scripture, live in service for the sake of the neighbor, and pray without ceasing. But some of the best faith formation happens in

community with one another.

Join your fellow St. Philipians at one or all of the following faith formation opportunities:

#### Book Study on Monday Evenings:

Mondays, November 2, 9, 16, and 23 we will discuss Barbara Brown Taylor's book Learning to Walk in the Dark. Taylor says, "Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me" Taylor will serve as a guide to find God in the darkness and in places of fear and teach us ways those experiences often are great spaces for learning. Join via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83749477778?pwd=dXB2VnJSdmJNcnJsZkN2k3ZHhkZz09>

#### Monday Morning Bible Study:

Study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday the Monday prior. Join us from wherever you are on Zoom on Mondays at 9:30 am using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83895365636?pwd=bGMzNzJjYk9mUDdnK094dmw4OEM0Zz09>

**Fireside Faith With S'mores!:** Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 4 at 7pm for faith conversation around the fire. Bring your lawn chair, BLANKETS, your favorite beverage, and your curiosity as we gather on the hill behind the church around the campfire. This will be the last Fireside Faith before a possible reprise in the spring but we will finish with a tasty treat. Plan on roasting marshmallows and s'mores (campfire and s'more ingredients be provided).



## Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 6 at 10:30am immediately following worship.

There will be a brief update as to the ministry we share in and through St. Philip. Additionally, we will be voting on the annual spending plan as well as elections for St. Philip council. 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.

## Prayer Requests

Scott Buchanan – Member  
Calvin Knotts – Member  
Judy Diekow – Member  
Kathryn Buchanan – Member  
Betty Hammond – Member  
Ruth Albertin - Juli Albertin's mother  
Rusty Johnson - Dolly Johnson's son  
Forest Kanode - Kanodes' grandson  
Jamie Hinkle - Kanode's friend  
Emily Totten - Member & Scott Buchanan's sister  
Barbara Simpson - Member

## November Birthdays

Rick Brosius	November 09
Kevin Farmer	November 07
Stacy Frost	November 24
Jonah Gruver	November 22
Renee Hiller	November 03
Pat Hunt	November 14
Karen Lowdon	November 05
Wende Markham	November 21
Jack Parker	November 11
Gary Sahn	November 09
C. P. Staley	November 23



St. Philip Lutheran Church  
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Change Service Requested

**David C. Derrick, Pastor** ([pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net))  
**Laura Dunklin, Pastor** ([pastorlaura@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:pastorlaura@stphiliplutheran.net))  
**Laura J. Latham, Office Administrator** ([officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net))  
**Judy Burnette, Director of Music Ministries** ([music@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:music@stphiliplutheran.net))  
**Teresa Siler-Lee, Nursery Attendant**  
**Jody Draper, Custodian**

**Church Council**

Gary Sahm, Council President; Gary Dudley, Council Vice-President; Peter Shick, Treasurer;  
Abby and Dave Mellon, Financial Secretary; Linda Duncan Rhodes Council Secretary  
Members: Doug Layman, Shannon Radmacher, Kathleen Radtke, Donna Spradlin, Dan Horine, Elizabeth Horine

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

