

St. Philip Invitation

LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE FEBRUARY 2021



Live Like That: Loving, Feeding, and Serving in 2020

Pastor Laura and Pastor David

Love, Feed, Serve is not just a slogan; it is our mission and it is our purpose. Over the past year, we have experienced so much change. A global pandemic disrupted our way of living. Overdue calls for racial justice opened our eyes to the pain of our neighbors. Political unrest in our country brought about strife and division. In the midst of all of that, we have encountered challenges such as not being able to worship indoors for almost a year. We miss the sense of normalcy we previously enjoyed and we miss gathering together as we once did.

In the midst of these challenges and changes, this past year could have been one where God's mission at St. Philip very easily could have lost priority. YET, the community of St. Philip steadfastly continued as an active community of faith, compelled by God's grand gift of love to share God's love and abundance with others. The flexibility, adaptability, and creativity of our St. Philip community was nothing short of miraculous. We loved, fed, and served as a response to Jesus' call to be disciples in the middle of context – no matter what that context looks like. As we move into the year 2021, there will undoubtedly be new

opportunities, new ministries, and new challenges. We greet this coming new season with faith and hopefulness.

Even as we step into the “what’s next”, we want to continually give thanks for what has been. Thank you for your generous hearts! We, along with church council, wanted to give thanks for all of the many ways you share God’s love everyday. For the ways you love, feed, and serve others. Your financial generosity for our mission together at St. Philip is appreciated, essential, and inspiring. We finished the challenging year of 2020 with receipts down only about 10% (Many churches around us experienced a much larger deficit). Thank you! God’s Spirit moves as we were blessed to receive 5 new members to join in our living out God’s mission in this community. Despite pandemic restrictions we celebrated 4 baptisms, confirmation with 4 confirmands, and even a small wedding. This past year was so exciting in many ways.

- We expanded our digital worship to be a weekly event with dozens of people participating who have never participated before.
- We rejuvenated faith formation for people of all ages: families received at home formation packets, videos in bunches, book studies via Zoom, fireside faith

conversation.

- Feast at Philips delivered more meals than ever before and included new partnerships with Trinity Lutheran Church.
- We shared new liturgies in worship. Worship happened online, in parking lots, and via Zoom video conferencing.
- We remotely compiled musical offerings add so much to our joyful thanks and praise.
- We deepened our partnerships for community ministries, such as our partnership with Melrose Towers, Roanoke County Social Services, and the American Red Cross, and RAM House and the Rescue Mission.
- With physical distancing a necessary practice for health reasons, building community was still a priority as car parades, palm waving, phone calls, cards of support, and prayers all connect our congregational community together.

Even in the midst of immense challenge, the year 2020 was a year of exceptional ministry where we discovered again that the church is not a building – it is people living out the Good News of Jesus Christ. We at St. Philip are alive and well to boldly live like that - loving, feeding, and serving in the name of Jesus.

Souper Bowl of Caring

As you prepare to purchase snacks for the Super Bowl, you are invited to provide food and funds for our hungry neighbors. Americans spend about \$1 billion on Super Bowl snacks. In contrast, the youth of St. Philip challenge the congregation to donate just \$1000 and 800 grocery items to Feeding America Food Bank and the

St. Mark's food pantry, respectively. You may mail checks to the church or give on our website, just select “Souper Bowl Sunday” when giving.

Food donations will be accepted at the church the week of February 8 during office hours (9am to 1pm), culminating at the drive up service on February 14! Together we can help end hunger right here in Roanoke!



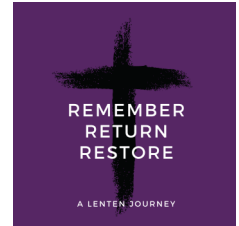
Our Lenten Journey

On February 17, St. Philip will celebrate Ash Wednesday, and with that service will welcome in the season of Lent.

Lent is a season in which we as children of God remember our mortality and our need for God's grace. This year, the theme for Lent

will be Remember, Return, Restore. We begin our Lenten journey with the phrase, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Throughout the season, the congregation reflect on all that draws us from God and return to deeper relationship with God. Through Christ's death and resurrection we are restored. Restored to new life, restored to right relationship with God, restored

with hope! Lenten devotionals will be available at the church to support your devotional practices in this season. Please make plans to participate in worship in this powerful season!



Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday will fall on February 17 this year. Ash Wednesday is an important day where we, as children of God, remember our mortality and our reliance on God with the words "You are dust and to dust you shall return." We wear the ashes in the shape of the cross on our foreheads as an outward sign of our repentance. Ash Wednesday also begins the Lenten journey towards the cross and

resurrection. There are a number of different ways to worship together this Ash Wednesday and observe this solemn and holy day. At 7pm, there will be a parking lot service with communion led by one of the pastors. Simultaneously, also at 7pm, an online open doors Ash Wednesday service will be facilitated by one of the pastors. This online service will also be accessible via the usual conference call.

The imposition of ashes, an important part of this day, will still happen. If you would like to participate in the service from home, either online or by conference call, please come by the church, starting February 8, to pick up your ashes to have with you at home. If you will be attending the drive up service, ashes will be given to you as you arrive for the service.

Special Blood Drive

St. Philip has a wonderful history of supporting the American Red Cross through many blood drives over the years. We are so grateful for the opportunity to help save lives in



our local community and beyond. THANK YOU to all of our volunteers and donors who made the January blood drive a success. The goal at that drive was 25 donors, and 42 units of blood were collected! That

will help save up to 126 lives! If you missed this drive, you have another opportunity to give. St. Philip's next blood drive will be Monday, February 15! Please contact Debbie Kanode or the church office to make an appointment to give!

Anniversary Sunday

On February 23, 1958, a charter was signed beginning the life of Saint Philip Lutheran Church. On Sunday,

February 21, we as a congregation will celebrate in worship our 63rd congregational anniversary. The community of St. Philip has a great history of service, growing faith, and

creative ministry and we celebrate all of those things even as we look with hope to a Spirit-led future. Check out worship online on February 21st at 11am to mark an anniversary together.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe is not just for children. Perhaps the preeminent of Christian author C. S. Lewis's writings will be a book for a book study in February! The best part of this book study is that even non-book readers can participate. For those of you who always "wait for the

movie" you are in luck. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is a feature film as well. This book (and movie) is a fictional, fantastical adventure that incorporates Christian themes and symbolism.

For now pick up a copy of the book at the library or your favorite book retailer or check out the movie available on DVD through Redbox or

streaming on Disney+ as well as on Amazon Prime.

Those interested will meet for discussion on Wednesday February 24 at 7pm. Use this Zoom link to join the conversation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83544427267?pwd=MmQyTWFYRXXRlU0Vkl2JxSlllcFc3QT09>

Church Council News

Gary Sham

Church Council did not meet on the second Tuesday of January, as normal, but needed to postpone the January meeting until the third Tuesday. Because of that, the Council Secretary did not have time to submit a report before the Jan. 15th deadline for publication in the February Newsletter. The Council News article in our March Newsletter will include notes from both the January and February meetings.

Nonetheless, I did want to take this opportunity to deliver a brief message to the congregation from your Council.

St. Philip ended up 2020 “in the black” financially, by a relatively small margin of \$6,538. In the December 6th Congregational Meeting, I reported that council was projecting year-end total giving to be about \$244,000. Actual total giving for the year ended up being \$250,830, due to stronger than anticipated giving in November and December.

I wish I could tell you 2021 will be better than 2020. But how would I know that? Despite global pandemic, people continue to experience joy and happiness and hope. Despite the total eradication of Covid-19, people will continue to suffer pain, and hunger, and hopelessness. Therefore, our mission does not change...to Love, Feed, and Serve.

I can report Church Council does not cease to be amazed by God’s Blessing on the congregation...financial blessings, blessings of inspired pastoral leadership, the generosity of brothers and sisters, and faithful ministry. Church Council continues to ask for God’s guidance, as well as his blessings of wisdom, courage, and strength. Council will continue to recognize and celebrate abundance and will respond with gratitude and service.

A Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year to ALL!

Faith Formation News

Kids’ Faith Formation

Every week Pastor Laura posts on the St. Philip website and the Facebook page a video with a Bible story and song for young people to enjoy! Then they are invited to work on the corresponding activity pages in the activity booklets that were mailed to them. Learning and fun continue, even while we cannot be together physically.

Monday Morning Bible Study: Study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday the Monday prior. Join us from wherever you are on Zoom.com on Mondays at 9:30am. Meeting i.d. 838 9536 5636, Passcode: 24019.

Plumbing Help Needed

The janitor’s closet is in the middle of a makeover, with the help of a Thrivent Action Team card. Organization and cleanliness will help with our many outreach projects as well as to day needs. One of the main tasks is replacing the sink and faucet that is leaking. The new tub has been purchased. A volunteer with plumbing skills would be greatly appreciated to assist Paul Henkel with installation. If you can help, please contact or Laura Weatherford Burns (Latham) in the church office.

Looking For A Project?

Speak with Pastor David if you would like to help with a project or two around the church facility. The property team especially would love anyone who -

- Can apply a fresh coat of paint
- Is willing to do a little landscaping work around the property
- Is an organizer of cabinets and storage places

Thank You

Many thanks for all the wonderful cards, calls, prayers, and well wishes I have received in the last year from my St. Philip Family. I’m settling in nicely at my daughter’s house following my recent move. Blessings to you all.
Barbara Simpson

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
Emily Totten - Member & Scott Buchanan’s sister
Barbara Simpson - Member

February Birthdays

Fritz Lovelace	February 01
Clara Johnston	February 03
Doug Layman	February 04
Leah Horine	February 05
Kacy Edsall	February 09
Kari Harvey	February 10
Al Simpson	February 11
Rob Erwin	February 11
Amy Lovelace	February 12
Luke Swanson	February 12
Bradley Craig	February 12
Luke Duncan	February 24
Skyler Hayth	February 25
Sharon Whetzel	February 27
Joann Michael	February 28
Jay Michael	February 28

St. Philip Lutheran Church
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Roanoke, VA 24019

Change Service Requested

David C. Derrick, Pastor (pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net)
Laura Swanson, Pastor (pastorlaura@stphiliplutheran.net)
Laura J. Weatherford Burns, Office Administrator (officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net)
Judy Burnette, Director of Music Ministries (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,
Donna Wright, Dan Horine, Jacob Schult

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

