

St. Philip Invitation



LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE MARCH 2021

Stations of the Cross in the Valley



Explore the Roanoke Valley
while reflecting on the
story of Jesus' crucifixion.

Stations of the Cross

As we begin our journey through the season of Lent, we begin our journey to the cross. A long-held tradition of the church is the Stations of the Cross. This is an opportunity to pray and meditate on the different stages of Jesus' crucifixion. This year, the pastors are excited to offer a creative way to do the Stations of the Cross in the Roanoke Valley. Each of the Stations are connected with a place in the Roanoke Valley, scripture, a reflection and prayer. Please check out this creative devotional and consider making it a part of your Lenten journey! To access the Stations of the Cross in the Valley, please pick up a paper copy at the church or go to <https://tinyurl.com/SOTC2021> A Google Map to all locations can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/SOTC2021map>

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.

Holy Week Schedule

While the whole season of Lent is a contemplative time in which we ponder the great gift of salvation we experience through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, Holy Week is an especially poignant part of the season. We will have more information forthcoming about how we will worship and observe Holy Week together, but for now, please mark your calendars for these special times.

- Palm Sunday - March 28
- Stations of the Cross in the Valley Discussion - March 29, 7pm
- Maundy Thursday - April 1
- Good Friday - April 2
- Easter Egg Hunt - April 3
- Easter Sunday - April 4



Live Like That – Extend an Easter Invitation

Even as we live through a reflective and confessional time during the season of lent, remember St. Philip will celebrate boldly God's promise made real through the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is alive and that indeed is good news.

One important way is by way of extending invitation. Easter is Sunday, **April 4**. For many who are not connected to a worshipping community it is often at Easter time that God's Spirit is moving in a way that at least raises some questions of curiosity. For many the last impediment to seeing what this "Christian stuff" is all about can be overcome with a simple invitation.

This Easter, extend an invitation to a friend, a co-worker, an extended family member, an acquaintance, or even a stranger to connect with St. Philip on Easter Sunday. Then get out of the way and let God's Holy Spirit take over. The love God demonstrates in the death and resurrection of Jesus – it's worth sharing. More information and invites to hand out will come in a mailing to you later this month.

Souper Bowl of Caring Thank You

During the 2021 Souper Bowl of Caring drive just over 900 items were donated to benefit St. Mark's Lutheran Food Pantry and \$1,350 was donated for Feeding America of Southwest Virginia! The Youth Group and Grocery Bag Ministry Team are so grateful for all of your help to combat hunger in the Roanoke Valley. Especially in the hard economic times of this year, these gifts will have a huge impact! Thank you, thank you!

Generosity Matters

The St. Philip endowment is an incredible resource for ministry. This past year the earnings from the endowment have made it possible to make some improvements around the church facility including painting, new lighting at the side entrance, and replacing a 10-year-old lawn tractor.

Additionally, some funds have been set aside to allow for creativity as leadership wonders, and plans, and visions about how God might be calling us into mission after the acute crisis of the pandemic has subsided.

The endowment has also allowed St. Philip to practice generosity in ways that extend even further. The

congregation was able to contribute to the partners outside the local congregation as gifts to the Virginia Synod and siblings in Malawi, Africa. St. Philip is truly blessed with these resources even as the church continues to cultivate a culture of generosity. We are called to share because generosity matters.

Blood Drive News

St. Philip has a wonderful history of supporting the American Red Cross through many blood drives over the years. The Blood Drive team is so grateful for the opportunity to help save lives in the local community and beyond. THANK YOU to all of the volunteers and donors who made the February blood drive a success. Thirty-seven units of blood were collected! That will help save up to 111 lives!

If you missed this drive, you have another opportunity to give. St.

Philip's next blood drive will be Monday, May 10! Be on the lookout in announcements, on Facebook, and in upcoming newsletters for information about this opportunity to support the wellness of the Roanoke community!

And did you know...?

Luke Swanson's (intern at Trinity Lutheran and Pastor Laura's spouse) parents previously served as pastors at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dansville, NY, which is where the American Red Cross was founded. Back in the 1800s, when Clara Barton was looking for a meeting space, her

friend Emma Hartman Noyes, a member of St. Paul's offered their fellowship hall as a meeting space. The first official meeting of the newly founded American Red Cross was held at St. Paul's Lutheran in 1881.

What a fun connection and a wonderful way to see how the church has and continues to support the public health of the community!



Make connecting with your church community a "Breeze"

Have you checked out the new church database and directory application called Breeze yet? If not, this is a fantastic way for you to help you stay in touch with your St. Philip community without needing to call around for a person's contact information or dig out a church directory that may be out of date.

You can also keep your own contact information current as it changes. If you moved, got a new phone or a new email address, or added a member of the family, it's easy to enter or update that information as it happens. This helps others and the church office communicate with you better.

Be sure to check out Breeze! Access church directory information on a computer at <https://stphiliplutheran.breezechms.com> or download an app for Android and

iPhone by searching "Breeze CHMS." (The icon looks like a sailboat). Once you access Breeze create an account. **The church's id is stphiliplutheran.** If there is a profile in Breeze that matches your name and email address, Breeze will send you an email with an invite link. If you do not receive your invite link and have more than one email address, please check with Laura Latham in the church office to be sure your preferred email address is on file.

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 \$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! If you would like to put something together but need some ideas to prime the pump call one of the Pastors for suggestions.

Church Council News

Linda Duncan Rhodes

Council met on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

The Treasurer reports receipts for month ending January 31, 2021 of \$27,673.18 and year-to-date receipts of \$27,673.18 which is \$1,673.18 over budget. The church's expenses for the month were \$26,888.07 leaving \$785.11 more in revenue than spent. The annual withdrawal from the Davenport Investment Fund in the amount of \$17,000.00 was made and deposited in the saving account pending disbursement for approved uses.

St Philip will not qualify for the second round of the Payroll Protection Program in 2021.

The changes made to the Endowment Fund guidelines have been approved by council and will be presented at the spring congregational meeting. The \$17,000 annual distribution from our Endowment Fund was received in January, and Council approved the allocation of these funds in 2021 as follows:

- \$3000 Capital Improvements/ Facilities & Property Various capital projects: fixing lights underneath the portico and painting the preschool rooms.
- \$4000 Maintenance New Lawn

Mower(s) requested by Pete Schick.

- \$4050 Internal Congregation Ministry Seed Money Ministry opportunities that will be visioned in a council retreat in April
- \$5950 Generosity Outside the Congregation (Benevolence)
- \$2,500 Donation to Malawi suggested by Global Missions Team
- \$2,450 Donation to Virginia Synod to cover 2020 shortfall
- \$1,000.00 To be announced at a later date

(see more information on page 2)

The next council meeting is March 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Racial Justice

Over the past several months, many of you have been engaging in conversation, study, and prayer to purposefully engage in the ongoing challenges of racial justice and systemic racism. One of the shared opportunities at St. Philip was utilizing a resource called the 21 Day Challenge. If you haven't seen the resources available at the 21 Day Challenge you can find them here: www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge.

The pastors want to keep these conversations going. After the 21 Day Challenge one of the St. Philipians, Cathy Dudley, was led to ongoing conversations with people across the country and very recently composed

the poem Unity (seen below). As people of faith we are committed to justice for all people created in God's image.

Unity - Galatians 3:26-28

by Cathy Dudley

One in Christ Jesus -
 Peach and bronze, ivory and beige;
 People of all colors.
 Yet discrimination pain still haunts us -
 And privilege remains unchanged.
 One in Christ Jesus -
 Ruddy and white, ebony and amber;
 People of all colors.
 Yet school inequity continues -
 And housing is unfair too.
 One in Christ Jesus -
 Cinnamon and onyx, gold and chestnut;

People of all colors.
 Yet some are targets of crime -
 And others act in judgment.
 One in Christ Jesus -
 Cream and sandy, mahogany and rose;
 People of all colors.
 Yes there's long hard work to do -
 And listening to truth that hurts.
 One in Christ Jesus -
 Black and salmon, tan and crimson;
 People of all colors.
 Yes start building new friendships -
 And show up ready for reform.
 One in Christ Jesus -
 Apricot and brown, olive and pink;
 People of all colors.
 Yes we are ALL God's children -
 And living Christ's love is God's answer.

| Prayer Requests | March Birthdays | | | |
|---|------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Scott Buchanan – Member | Reece Derrick | 1 | Layla Parker | 24 |
| Calvin Knotts – Member | Linda Hudson | 1 | Erica Hayth | 25 |
| Judy Diekow – Member | Keith Brown | 2 | Kristian Schult | 25 |
| Kathryn Buchanan – Member | Louisa Britt | 4 | Will Saeger | 26 |
| Betty Hammond –Member | Liz Leonard | 5 | Ryan Reiter | 27 |
| Ruth Albertin - Juli Albertin's mother | Polly Kanode | 12 | Kali Edsall | 28 |
| Rusty Johnson - Dolly Johnson's son | Dorothy Finger | 15 | Sarah Parker | 29 |
| Emily Totten - Member & Scott Buchanan's sister | Lynn Erwin | 17 | | |
| Barbara Simpson - Member | Dan Horine | 17 | | |
| Don Stith and Family - Member | Elizabeth Horine | 18 | | |
| | Ryan Mehalic | 18 | | |
| | Laura Swanson | 18 | | |
| | Jacob Clark | 20 | | |

St. Philip Lutheran Church
8115 Williamson Road
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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 Sahn, 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

