

St. Philip Invitation



LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE DECEMBER 2021

A Look Inside

Council News	Page 2
Advent	Page 2
Choir	Page 2
A Taxing Topic	Page 3
Living Grace	Page 3
Birthdays	Page 3
Prayer Requests	Page 3

Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 12 at 10:30am, held simultaneously in the sanctuary as well as via Zoom video conference. To access the meeting, go to www.zoom.com and enter meeting i.d. 860 4019 9836. The passcode is 24019. You do not need a computer or internet to join! Just call into the meeting from your landline or cell phone at 301-715-8592. At the prompt, use the meeting i.d. and passcode above.

There will be an update as to the ministry we share in and through St. Philip. Additionally, we will be voting on the annual spending plan. It is important for all of us to be a part of our church's mission and the resources needed to make it happen. Please make plans to be present, either in person or virtually.

Feast at Philip's Thank You!

Another wonderful year of sharing Thanksgiving meals with the community! We are so grateful for all of the donations and volunteers that enabled St. Philip to love, feed, and serve the Roanoke community Thanksgiving weekend. Meals were delivered to first responders, assisted living facilities, and apartment communities. Thank you again for the village of support that makes this annual event possible!

Celebrating Advent & Christmas

At its heart, Christmas is a celebration of the wondrous power of God's love breaking into the weary world through the birth of a savior. Christmas is a celebration of hope, of joy! It's a celebration we await with hopeful expectation every year, but perhaps with even more longing this year. We worship the God who is incarnate in Jesus! The Word made flesh, who is grace upon grace. Plan to take part in these worship opportunities this season.

The Sundays of Advent, Beginning Sunday, November 28 and continuing each Sunday in Advent, 9:30am in the sanctuary at St. Philip and streaming online on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipLutheran>). The theme for the Advent season is Close to Home. Each week we will explore how "home" is so central to advent's traditional themes of waiting, anticipation and expectation.

Longest Night, Tuesday, December 21, 7pm via Facebook Premier (<https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipLutheran>)

A space for holding holiday grief during this merry season. St. Philip will worship the God who not only accompanies us when we celebrate but also when we are hurting. This worship opportunity is happening digitally ONLY on Facebook.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Friday, December 24, 4pm in the sanctuary.

This Christmas worship includes many traditional favorites as we sing Christmas carols, celebrate holy communion, and depart singing Silent Night with candles lit.

Community Candlelight Celebration Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, 7pm inside your car in the St. Philip parking lot with sound broadcast through the radio in your vehicle.

This brief service is perfect for those who want to be in community without being with a crowd indoors. Hear the Christmas story and sing Silent Night by candlelight.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Friday, December 24, 9pm in the sanctuary and streamed live on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipLutheran>).

This Christmas worship includes many traditional favorites as we sing Christmas carols, celebrate holy communion, enjoy special music from the St. Philip choir, and depart singing Silent Night with candles lit.

Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 26, 9:30am in the sanctuary and livestreamed on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipLutheran>). The congregation will celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas with a service of Lessons and Carols. There is no better way to make the story of Christmas an ongoing part of your story. This service is comprised of alternating biblical lessons and traditional carols. Many songs will be sung!"

God promises grace upon grace; made most evident by the presence of Jesus in a manger but also through the Holy Spirit here among us. Come let us worship!

Advent Theme: Close to Home

This advent season St. Philip's theme for worship is Close to Home.



When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. The Close to Home theme

acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. In many ways,

Advent 2021 - Journey to the Stable

Sunday, November 28, begins the season of Advent! Advent is a season of the church year that leads to Christmas. In Advent, we wait with hope and expectation for the coming of Christ both at Christmas, and again in the future! It's a powerful season that reminds us of our longing for Christ's light and love in the world. In worship, St. Philip will celebrate Advent with

the theme of “Close to Home.”

There is also an exciting devotional activity! This devotional can be found in printed copies on the table in the narthex as well as on the St. Philip website at <http://www.stphiliplutheran.net/?p=2756>.

As with the Stations of the Cross in the Valley during Lent, you are invited to “journey to the stable” by reading the story of the nativity while visiting sites

these scriptures are like blueprints—detailing the dreams of a God who makes a home with us. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth; sacred ground is all around us.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

in the Roanoke valley. Each station will be accompanied by a scripture text and a Bible verse. There are even “Bethlehem Bonuses” for you to check out!

Journey to the Stable
HEAR THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH ANEW,
WHILE VISITING SITES
IN THE ROANOKE VALLEY



May this Advent season be one filled with the hope and expectation of Emmanuel, God with us!

Music of Christmas

The Christmas Season is a time filled with many emotions. These emotions may include happiness,



wonder, joy and anticipation.

When preparing the songs the St. Philip choir shares on Christmas Eve, they are chosen with the hope that the souls of those listening will be touched. One of the songs for this year is “Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow,”

arranged by John Leavitt. It is a song of excitement and anticipation as the shepherds are told to follow the star to the place where Jesus is born. Imagine that: just follow a star and you will see the Baby Jesus. How wondrous!

Council News—November 2021

Linda Duncan Rhodes

Council met on Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00pm in the church library and via Zoom.

The Living Grace theme continues to shape our conversations and ministry together. Because we are emphasizing grace in worship and through outreach, several initiatives are either happening or in the planning stages. Some of those include: moments of grace testimonials in worship; recording moments of grace on heart cut outs; strengthening grace stories on the

St. Philip digital platforms; and hand written notes to people.

The Treasurer's report showed receipts for the month ending October 31, 2021 of \$17,369.85 and year-to-date receipts of \$202,307.16 which is \$57,492.84 under budget. Expenses exceeded income by \$8,289.99 for October. Expenses were higher this month due to an expenditure of \$1,300.00 for the annual usage charge for the copy machine. Year-to-date expenses exceeded income by \$44,210.43.

Council continues to feel comfortable with the COVID

protocol we are presently using and feels this protocol should stay in effect until the end of the year. Council will revisit the present protocol in January to see if changes need to be made.

Council approved a static spending plan of \$233,838.00 to be presented to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on December 12. A copy of this plan and a cover letter will be sent out to the congregation two weeks prior to the meeting.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 via Zoom.

A Taxing Topic

In tax year 2017, about 30% of taxpayers itemized deductions. As a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017, it is estimated that only about 8% of filers will itemize deductions for tax year 2018. The TCJA suspended the personal exemption, which was worth \$4050 per person in 2017, and increased the standard deduction to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for married couples. The TCJA also placed caps on, and in some instances eliminated, items which could be claimed on Schedule A Itemized Deductions.

Thankfully the Act provided a means for some filers to make tax free contributions to charitable groups without itemizing deductions. The TCJA permits individuals between the ages of 70.5 and 86 to make a tax free distribution from a traditional IRA to a qualified 501c3 organization such as a church.

Any amount given to the church will count toward the IRA's annual

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and it will not be included in taxable income. The Act requires that the funds go directly from the financial source managing the IRA to the church. Funds can be rolled from a 401k plan to an IRA and then transferred to the church. For more details about this option contact the financial advisor who manages the IRA account. I would also recommend that those who may benefit from this option seek advice from their CPA, Enrolled Agent or tax preparer.



We have had several St. Philipians take advantage of this opportunity in 2021 year and invite you to consider making an offering to our shared ministry in this way.

As this very difficult year comes to an end, each of you is invited to continue to be as generous as you are able so that ministry thrives.

Living Grace

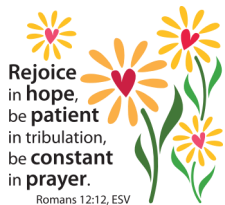
As we continue to live into our Year of Grace, we will be sharing Moments of Grace in worship during the season of Advent. Be sure to look out for these moments, they'll happen after the sharing of the peace! As you hear these powerful stories, we encourage you to think about how you've experienced God's grace in your own life! If you're feeling called to share a Moment of Grace story, please contact Pastor Laura!

Living Grace - One Note at a Time

Grace upon grace is marked by stories told in a variety of ways, but God's grace lives in the things we do as well. Acts of service and care are a primary way we respond to the love of God made known in Jesus. In the coming weeks, we at St. Philip and you in particular are invited to serve and care with the simple act of a hand written note. Communication can and does happen in lots of ways today, but we want to resurrect the power of handwritten notes of grace. There are sets of cards and stamps available for you to pick up in the narthex Send a note to someone you have missed at St. Philip, or to a neighbor across the street, or to the nurse you know who has worked so intensely of late, or to the relative who is lonely, or to anyone and everyone! Living God's Grace happens in life - one note at a time.

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.



Hannah Chabot - Bev Horvath's granddaughter
Don Stith - Member
Nancy Shadix - Member
Sara Aubitz - Member

December Birthdays

Sarah Melendy	Dec 1
Genie Brown	Dec 7
Kay Moyer	Dec 7
Robin Burke	Dec 15
Bucky Moyer	Dec 16
Paul Henkel	Dec 17
Rhonda Wilhelm	Dec 17
Barbara Hughes	Dec 19
Marlys Saeger	Dec 19
Malinda Britt	Dec 21
Allen Britt	Dec 22
Tracey Schult	Dec 22
Silas Logwood	Dec 26
Chris Staley	Dec 26

Prayer

Requests

Scott Buchanan – Member
Calvin Knotts – Member
Judy Diekow – Member
Kathryn Buchanan – Member
Betty Hammond – Member
Ruth Albertin - Juli Albertin's mother
Emily Totten - Member & Scott Buchanan's sister
Barbara Simpson - Member

St. Philip Lutheran Church
8115 Williamson Road
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

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

