

St. Philip Invitation

LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE DECEMBER 2022



What's That About? Have you ever wondered during worship about . . .

Passing the Peace

Sharing God's peace is not simply offering a friendly hello to those sitting around you (though hospitality at the Passing of the Peace is a wonderful sign of grace). The "exchange of peace" is an act of reconciliation that serves as a transition point between the Word and Meal portions of the liturgy. The exchange of peace is a ministry, an announcement of grace we make to each other, a summary of the gift given to us.

That the sharing of the peace follows the prayers of the church is not accidental. Having been forged into a common people in Holy Baptism, the congregation prays for peace in the Church, peace in the world, and peace for all those in need. Then the congregation follows through with the people offering peace and reconciliation to one another. This is not human peace alone, but the peace which is possible only through Christ. Then, after the exchange of peace, we receive the gift of Christ's peace in our sharing Holy Communion.

MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY SEMINAR

- Sunday, December 4th, at 11 am Thrivent and St. Philip will sponsor an informational meeting on Medicare and Social Security changes. Mr. Shannon Able will be leading the meeting and a light lunch will be served.

RSVP to the church office 540.366.7046 or signup sheet in the Narthex. Need more information, call Nancy Shadix at 540.366.3897.

WORSHIP THIS ADVENT

Sunday, November 27, 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 "Generation to Generation."

We will kick off Advent with a congregational event! Immediately following worship on November 27, we will make Advent wreaths together. You can then take those home and use them as part of your Advent preparation!



A variety of devotionals will also be available. One of these will be "Journey to the Stable." 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 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! May this Advent season be one filled with the hope and expectation of Emmanuel, God with us!

Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11 at 10:40am, held simultaneously in the sanctuary as well as via Zoom video conference. To access the meeting, go to [www.zoom.com](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86040199836) 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86040199836?pwd=ZVpoN2NyeFFWTDR2WmNWeWR2SVJjdz09>

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Feast at Philips another wonderful event of sharing food and fellowship with our neighbors! We are so grateful for all of the cooking, volunteering, and donations that makes this expansive event possible every year. It was a special joy to be able to dine in person for the first time since 2019! Special thanks to Brandon Oaks for loaning us their bus and Feeding SWVA for the use of the Community Solutions Center.

Council News---October 2022

Karen Lowdon

Council met on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm in person and via Zoom.

Pastor Laura reported on another upcoming Blood Drive on December 19. **The Red Cross depends on St. Philip for being one of their primary locations in the Roanoke Valley for blood donations. Digital outreach continues to be one of the strongest more recently emphasized parts of the St. Philip Ministry. To enhance and grow that part of our communication,** St. Philip has added some additional resources for ideas and content from Mother Hen Media Ministries.

Fall Faith Formation is continuing and Communion Faith Formation will take place in the coming weeks. Blessing of Animals, Socktober and Trunk or Treat were all held. Feast at Philips is coming soon and volunteers are needed.

Pastor David reminded us of estate planning and education available from Sister Marianne Brock who was here last month. Youth Ministry is moving forward with events planned once a month. Endowment disbursement applications will be received for the annual 4% distribution through December 31.

Pastor Laura met with Renae Taylor about the Community Outreach Pilot. The program went well and opportunities were identified. There is no commitment for the future and the plan is to talk again in January.

Spending Plan for 2023 was reviewed and was approved to present this to the congregation for consideration. **Be on the lookout for a congregational communication with details for our congregational meeting December 11 at 10:45am.**

Council Retreat was held October 23 and more follow-up is planned for the December meeting. **The St. Philip Council is looking to focus on 2 new initiatives connecting us with the values of Welcome and Care as well as identifying 2 current practices that we might conclude.**

Treasurer's Report by Peter Shick shows receipts in October of \$22,847 and YTD of \$227,211 which is \$26,314 below budget. Expenses for October were \$26,689 and YTD of \$249,083 or \$4,442 below budget. YTD October deficit is \$21,871.

The next council meeting will be December 13.

Ladies **LUNCHEON**

There will be a Ladies' Christmas Luncheon in the St. Philip Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 7 at 12:30pm!

Come and enjoy a wonderful catered lunch and great fellowship in this festive season. Ladies are invited to bring a wrapped Dollar Store item for a fun gift game and a non-perishable food item to donate.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Judy Burnette

The Scottish writer James Montgomery (1771-1854) wrote the lyrics to "Angels from the Realms of Glory" in 1816. He was a newspaper editor who was in and out of prison because of his extreme views written in his publications. His popular Christmas carol, "Angels from the Realms of Glory" is just one of 400 hymns written by Mr. Montgomery. We most often sing this carol to the tune, "Regent Square," but it can be sung to other tunes.

Collaborative Youth Ministry in the Roanoke Valley

One of the great gifts of the church is our connections not only to one another in a particular congregation but also to siblings in Christ in other places. Those connections are taking shape as youth in the Roanoke Valley are purposefully gathering together to have fun, to connect, and to be people of faith together. In the coming months youth from the College Lutheran, Christ Lutheran, Wheatland Lutheran, St. Mark Lutheran, and St. Philip are gonna be hanging out monthly.

Youth make plans for a lock in at Christ Lutheran on December 16 from 7pm til 9am. We will play games, make some cookies to brighten spirits, and even make a shopping trip to Walmart to buy gifts for children at the Roanoke Rescue Mission. Don't miss it.

And for those who are not youth, pray for this new collaborative ministry experience and for our continued connections to our siblings in Christ in other places.

Stuff Stockings to Fill Backpacks

Elijah's Backpack is an amazing ministry that serves hungry children in our community. Every week of the school year, bags of food are packed and delivered to schools for children in need to take home. With these bags securely in their backpacks, students do not have to worry about where their food will come from over the weekend. Instead of that worry, they can focus on just being kids. The Elijah's Backpack coordinators are extremely resourceful in their efforts to provide high quality foods to children. Even with that resourcefulness, the reality of inflation and rising food costs has been unavoidable. These difficult economic times also increase the need for food assistance. We are so grateful for all of the contributions that have sustained this ministry to this point and are hoping you would consider partnering with Elijah's Back

pack for a special initiative this December. This December, Elijah's Backpack is hosting a special campaign, "Stuff Stockings to Fill Backpacks." The goal of this campaign is to raise \$3,000 in December to provide food for students in 2023. All funds raised will go directly to purchasing the necessary food supplies to ensure every child receives a nutritious bag of food to take home every weekend. We know the holiday season is so full, full of activities and full of celebrations. Our hope is that the fullness of this season will also include resources to keep backpacks full throughout the coming year. We give thanks to God for the ministry of Elijah's Backpack, for the faithful support of the village that sustains it, and the love of Christ that flows in and through this ministry. We hope you'll join us in this effort to love, feed, and serve children in the Roanoke Valley!

St. Philip is hosting a **Holiday Pop-Up Blood Drive** on Monday, December 19th from noon-6pm! Please sign up online at redcrossblood.org or contact Debbie Kanode at 540-589-6865. Thank you for helping to save lives in the community!

A message from St. Philip council: 2022 Staff Christmas Gifts

Dear St. Philippians,

Each year our members are offered the opportunity to show their appreciation and spread Christmas cheer to our staff with a financial gift.

As we observe the Advent season for 2022, please consider making a gift again this year to a fund which will be divided amongst our staff.

Please make checks out to St. Philip Lutheran Church and note in the memo line "Staff Christmas Gift". You may mail your check to the Church office or drop off an envelope with a check or cash gift at the Church office. *In either case, please be sure to mark on the outside of the envelope "Staff Christmas Gift".*

We traditionally present these gifts to our staff on Christmas Eve, so please mail or drop off your gift so that it arrives at the Church office **no later than Sunday, December 18th**. That will allow time for our Treasurer to process the gifts, prepare checks for individual staff members, and have them distributed to our staff by Christmas Eve.

Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Shannon Radmacher
Council President

*P.S. Unfortunately, we **do not** have a way to allow this gift to be made electronically. If you try to donate for this purpose online, there is no way to ensure it will be allocated for the Christmas gifts.*

Scott Buchanan – Member
Kathryn Buchanan – Member
Betty Hammond –Member
Bev Horvath—Member
Emily Totten - Member & Scott Buchanan's sister
Barbara Simpson - Member
Hannah Chabot - Bev Horvath's granddaughter
Sara Aubitz - Member
Margaret Mitchell—Member



Sarah Melendy	December 1
Caroline Wilson	December 5
Genie Brown	December 7
Kay Moyer	December 7
Robin Burke	December 15
Joseph Moyer	December 16
Paul Henkel	December 17
Rhonda Wilhelm	December 17
Barbara Hughes	December 19
Marlys Saeger	December 19
Malinda Britt	December 21
Tracey Schult	December 22
Allen Britt	December 22
Bethany Ketchem	December 23
Christopher Staley	December 26
Doris Waldron	December 28

St. Philip Lutheran Church
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Change Service Requested

David C. Derrick, Pastor (pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net)
Laura Swanson, Pastor (pastorlaura@stphiliplutheran.net)
Alice H. Lebow, Office Administrator (officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net)
Judy Burnette, Director of Music Ministries (music@stphiliplutheran.net)
Jody Draper, Custodian

Church Council

Shannon Radmacher, Council President; Paul Economy, Council Vice-President;
Peter Shick, Treasurer; Dave Mellon, Financial Secretary; Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary;
Members: Patti Henkel, Daniel Hickox-Young, Bruce Johnson,
Doug Layman, Donna Spradlin, Donna Wright

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

