

St. Philip Invitation



LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE FEBRUARY 2023

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

Kyrie Eleison

We sing "Kyrie Eleison, on our world and on our way" Kyrie is the greek word for Lord and eleison translates have mercy. As we sing we call on the Lord to have mercy on our world and along our way.

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The Kyrie is not a plea to God to forgive us- that's been done! We're not repeating the confession here. The Kyrie is a reminder of God's infinite kindness to us, the world, and the Church of God. The Kyrie is a plea that God's tender mercy would especially be in "this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise" and the rest of our world that is in need.

Winter Weather Policy

It's that time of year again. When roads are too dangerous to travel, announcements about worship services will be made using our telephone messaging service and posted on Facebook. As always, use your good judgment because your safety is important to us.



ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

Sunday, February 26th

On February 23, 1958, a charter was signed beginning the life of Saint Philip Lutheran Church. On Sunday, February 26, we will celebrate in worship our 65th 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 on the 26th at 9:30am to mark an anniversary together.



FAITH FORMATION

We're excited to grow in faith as a community in 2023! Adult Faith Formation will center around Nooma devotional videos and discussion. Kids will continue to explore Bible stories and have fun together! Both of these faith formation opportunities happen weekly immediately after worship, with the exception of the first Sundays of the month. On the first Sunday of each month, all are invited to gather in the fellowship hall for a time of food and fellowship at Cafe.

Stuffing Stockings for

Elijah's Backpacks

We are overjoyed to share that thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of the Roanoke community, we were able to raise over \$5,000 for Elijah's Backpack "Stuffing Stockings to Fill Backpacks" campaign. All money raised will go directly to purchasing food. This food will be packed weekly into to packs that children will take home to ensure they will have food resources over the weekend - allowing them to just relax and have fun! Thank you for your support of these children and their families and for loving, feeding, and serving like Christ!



Council News -- January 2023

Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary

Council met on Tuesday January 10 via Zoom.

Parsonage painting and carpet replacement will begin soon.

We are waiting for additional information about other improvements discussed last month.

Pastors will move forward with two Taskforces of Welcome and Care as focus areas for our congregation for this year.

Pastor Laura will be on parental leave for several months beginning in February. Planning is underway to cover services and responsibilities during that time.

We are actively looking for someone to resume providing childcare on Sunday morning.

MLK recognition will take place on January 16th at noon at St John's Episcopal Church with pastor Laura participating.

Nine applications were received for disbursement and reviewed by the Endowment team. The recommendation to partially fund 8 of those was approved by council.

- \$2000 seed money for council initiatives coming out of council retreat
- \$5000 as a part of St. Philip's ministry with St. Mark's Lion Share food pantry.
- \$2500 as seed money for child care on Sunday mornings with the recommendation to include that expense in the spending plan in 2024

- \$2500 Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build with the recommendation to also solicit volunteer support for this as well.

- \$2000 Seminary Scholarship Program - \$1000 for each of our seminary students.

- \$2500 to the Virginia Synod – undesignated. The committee received 2 applications from the Virginia Synod. One specifically for new mission starts and one appeal for a 1% increase in general benevolence. The committee recommends this undesignated gift for our Synod leadership to determine best uses.

The bi-annual synod assembly will be in June and two church representatives will be appointed to represent St Philip.

Treasurer's Report

December receipts were \$22,227, YTD receipts were \$272,306, or \$31,923 below budget

December expenses were \$23,967, YTD expenses were \$296,321, or \$6,909 below budget

The deficit for December is \$1,740, YTD for December is \$25,015

The cash balance is \$18,213

Pastor David noted that 2022 was almost back to pre-pandemic income levels and that is positive. Given that inflation has increased expenses in many areas that is indeed promising.

Super Heroes

Judy Burnette

On a recent Sunday as I arrived for worship, I was greeted by one of our Pastors asking if I had seen the texts from some of our choir members. I had not, so I checked and discovered that three people had issues from steep icy drive-ways to ice covered steps that would prevent them from coming to church. Also, our veterinarian was unable to attend because he had an emergency cat surgery to perform.

What is a choir director to do? With so many people absent, the prepared anthem could not be sung. It was 20 minutes before church was to begin when three choir members arrived and said "no worries," we will find a song to sing . . . and they did. They sang beautifully. Thank you so much for being the "super" people you are and blessing us with your musical gifts. We have a choir of super heroes, but this was their particular day to shine brightly. By the way, we have plenty of room for more super heroes.

Child Care Attendant Needed

St. Philip is looking for a child care attendant to serve on Sunday mornings, and possibly other occasions on an as needed basis. We are seeking someone on Sundays from 9:15 - 11:45am. Candidates will need to be up to date with vaccinations and will be open to a criminal background check. This position is open for filling immediately. St. Philippians are encouraged to help us network to identify great candidates. If you know of someone please have them contact Pastor David.

PASTORAL LETTER ON PARENTAL LEAVE

The month of our daughter's due date is finally here, February 21st! While Anna Kate's actual birthdate is still a mystery, it is certainly a time of final preparation and anticipation for her arrival. I wanted to write an article about my upcoming leave as we move into this special season.

First, Pastor Luke and I wanted to give a heartfelt thank you for all of your prayers, generosity, and excitement! As our family grows, we're deeply grateful for the ways you have celebrated with and supported us. Once she has arrived, a one call now will go out to the congregation to let you know and share in the joy!

I will have 12 weeks of parental leave and plan to start my leave with Anna Kate's birth. During this time, I will not be checking email and will not respond to work-related calls or texts. Many plans and preparations have been made to best serve the congregation while I am on leave. I thank you for respecting this special time as our family adjusts to our new life together. You are welcome to send messages of well wishes, but please know that I may not respond. My hands will be quite full, and while I may have time to read and appreciate messages, I may not be able to respond. I will periodically send updates to publish in the announcements to share how our family is doing, and of course the most exciting part - to share pictures!

People have asked for ways that they can be supportive during this time. We are grateful for your prayers for our family. Meals are also a welcome support. Since there are two congregations to coordinate with, we have set up a meal train for people to sign up to bring meals, if they would like. If you would like to sign up for that, the link is <https://mealtrain.com/e3n76l> A paper sign-up will also be available in the gathering area.

It's hard to put into words the mixture of excitement, awe, nerves, and anticipation that these days hold. Thank you for your love and support for me and my family in this season - we can't wait to officially introduce Anna Kate to her St. Philip family! A community that will teach her so much about the God who created her, loves her, and calls her to love, feed, and serve like Christ.

Pastor Laura

CHILI COOK-OFF

On February 5, St. Philip will host a chili cookoff in the fellowship hall from 3-6pm! Please sign up to bring a chili in the narthex or at <https://tinyurl.com/chilicookoff2023> Even if cooking chili isn't your thing, but you'd enjoy some food and fellowship make plans to attend and enjoy!

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



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 12, 2023



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. As Super Bowl parties go on, we at St. Philip hope to donate **\$1000 and 800 grocery items** to Feeding America Food Bank and the St. Marks Lion's Share food pantry, respectively. You may mail checks to the church or give on our website, just select "Souper Bowl Sunday" when giving. We are accepting food donations at the church the week of February 4 in the bin on the front steps of the church or bring donations to worship on Sunday, February 12. Together we can help end hunger right here in Roanoke!

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|----------------|-------------|
| Fritz Lovelace | February 1 |
| Clara Johnston | February 3 |
| Doug Layman | February 4 |
| Kari Harvey | February 10 |
| Al Simpson | February 11 |
| Bradley Craig | February 12 |
| Amy Lovelace | February 12 |
| Luke Swanson | February 12 |
| Sharon Whetzel | February 27 |
| Joann Michael | February 28 |



Since 2017 The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017, provides 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.



Ash Wednesday Worship and Wednesday Worship in Lent

Ash Wednesday falls on February 22 this year. This 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. You are invited to worship at 7pm either in person at St. Philip or live streaming via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipLutheran>).

AND we are excited to announce that St. Philip will participate in a Wednesday evening round robin worship series with our Lutheran siblings in the Roanoke Valley. This long standing tradition of gathering with our Lutheran friends resumes this year for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. The theme for these gatherings will center upon and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the writing of the timeless hymn Amazing Grace. Keep checking for host church dates on Wednesdays in upcoming communications.

DIGITAL GOD MOMENTS

We are continually grateful for the ways in which technology connects us in new and surprising ways. The pandemic initiated many of these new practices, but it's been so wonderful to see the ways the Holy Spirit has been on the move - even in digital ways! We're going to share some of these impactful stories so that we can all celebrate the unique work of God in our midst.

One such story is the Waldron family. The Waldrons have been longtime members of St. Philip and began worshipping digitally during the pandemic. Every Sunday, they open up the computer at home and pull up the service. They sing the hymns with joy in the living room. They partake in the Lord's supper and join in the prayers of the people. We give thanks for the faithfulness of the Waldron family and the gift of God's presence with them every week. They are an important part of the St. Philip community and we give thanks for the digital God moment they experience every Sunday as a family.

St. Philip to Participate in Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build

The Apostles Build is Habitat-Roanoke's special bi-annual project where local churches of all sizes and denominations come together to fund and build a home for a local family. This is not a free home. In addition to an affordable purchase price, the homeowner family provides "sweat equity" by working on their own home as well as the homes of other families. They also participate in mandatory classes to prepare them for homeownership.

Through St. Philip's Endowment, a \$2500 financial contribution has been designated. St. Philip also hopes to invest some "sweat equity" just like the Apostles Build homeowner Aubrey. Check out her story below while being on the lookout for more details in the months ahead as to how you might participate.

2023 Apostles Build Homeowner



Aubrey Wood and son, Ryden

Aubrey is a native of Tampa, Florida. While in elementary school, her family moved to Roanoke, Virginia. She went on to become a hairstylist as a natural outpouring of her creativity and desire to help people.

Aubrey was blessed with her son, Ryden, at sixteen years old. "Although single teen-parenting is tough work, being a mother is one of the greatest privileges I could've ever asked for." Ryden will be 12 years old when they move into their new Habitat home. In July, when Habitat Family Services Director notified Aubrey that she had been approved for partnership, Aubrey screamed and danced around the busy hair salon that day. After sharing the good news with her mom, Aubrey's mother said she cried, happily, on and off the rest of the day.

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

