

St. Philip Invitation

LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE DECEMBER 2023

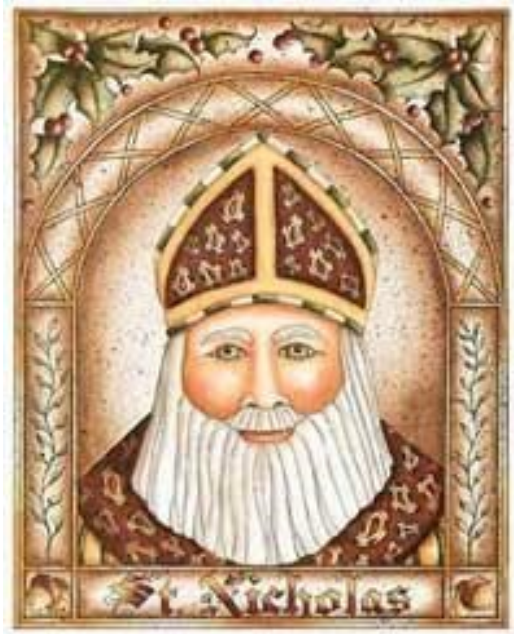


St. Nicholas

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. Yes there really truly was a St. Nicholas and St. Nicholas was a model for the Christian faith. Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God.

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

If you are interested in learning more about St. Nicholas there is a wonderful website with all kinds of information. Go to <http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/home/>



St. Nicholas
Artist: Susan Seals
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How Does a Weary World Rejoice? Advent 2023

We are people of faith who live in a complex world. We hear about tragedy after tragedy in the news. Our own lives can be filled at times with elements of grief, overwhelm, or doubt. All of this might lead us to a feeling of weariness in our hearts. And yet, we are called as people of faith, even in the midst of the complexities of our lives and this world, to rejoice!

Our worship theme for this Advent season is "How does a weary world rejoice?" We'll hear powerful stories from scripture, sing songs of hope, and celebrate the truths of God's love and grace. All as we anticipate the coming of Christ, and the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings - in a manger and in our lives.

Join us for worship, online or in person, this Advent season as we ponder rejoicing in a weary world.

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 the telephone messaging service, as well as text messaging. As always, use your good judgment because your safety is important to us.



Council News -- November 2023

Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary

Council reviewed the Budget/Spending Plan 2024 from the Executive Team. A static budget was reviewed and approved by Council and this will be presented to the congregational meeting in December for discussion and approval.

Marty Frazier was appointed to Council to replace Sue Huntington. That term runs until next April.

Pastor Laura reviewed the Young Families Monthly gatherings and she and Pastor David have been instrumental in leading this effort which includes other Lutheran churches.

Feast at Phillips is being planned -- please see the sign up sheet or contact Pastor Laura.

Advent/Christmas worship theme is How does a weary world rejoice?

December 20th 6:30pm Longest Night Service

December 24th 9:30am Holly Jolly breakfast

December 24th 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

Pastor David has returned from sabbatical leave. He expressed thanks to Pastor Laura for stepping up and taking care of many more things.

One of our members, Anna Radtke, is serving on the synod planning committee for Lost & Found.

St Philip will host Community Thanksgiving Worship on November 19 which includes Hollins area churches.

Treasurer's Report OCTOBER, 2023

OCTOBER RECEIPTS WERE \$28,251 YTD \$228,649 \$34,553 UNDER BUDGET

OCTOBER EXPENSES WERE \$27,182, YTD \$261,524, \$1,677 UNDER BUDGET

THE GAIN FOR OCTOBER IS \$1,069 YTD THE DEFICIT \$32,875

THE CASH BALANCE IS \$14,787.

EXPENSES CONTINUE TO BE UNDER BUDGET, THE PROBLEM CAUSING THE DEFICIT IS LOWER THAN BUDGETED OFFERINGS.

ELIJAH'S BACKPACK IS ENCOUNTERING HIGHER COSTS FOR FOOD AND MORE STUDENTS IN NEED THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. WE ARE REQUESTING \$4,000 FROM THE 2022 ENDOWMENT FUND ALLOCATION TO COVER THE PROJECTED CASH SHORTAGE.

Prayer Requests

Scott Buchanan – Member

Betty Hammond –Member

Bev Horvath—Member

Sara Aubitz - Member

Emily Totten - Member & Scott Buchanan's sister

Margaret Mitchell



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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
Melinda Britt	December 21
Allen Britt	December 22
Tracey Schult	December 22
Bethany Ketchem	December 23
Christopher Staley	December 26
Doris Waldron	December 28

St. Philip Endowment Grants for Ministry

We are blessed. The St. Philip Endowment Fund is an incredible resource for ministry. During the past decade disbursements from this fund have made possible so much ranging from benevolent contributions to partners locally, nationally, and globally, to seed money for new ministries like our digital worship, to capital improvements, and much more.

The St. Philip Endowment Team now through the end of the year is receiving Endowment Grant Applications to consider for disbursements in the year 2023. The Endowment Team is asking that everyone, both ministries originating among the St. Philip community and ministries from our neighbors, to complete an application. Find the application here <https://stphiliplutheran.breezechms.com/form/fa8edb> or upon request from the church office. We are blessed.

Young Families Gathering

Our December event for young families will be going to see Illumnights at Explore Park on December 3. Please purchase tickets for the 6:15pm slot for your family ahead of time at <https://tickets.roanokecountyparks.com/events/e35e67b7-9604-1ce4-3cd6-08c6f5c00246>. We will gather at Explore Park next to the parking lot at 6pm and we'll start walking through at 6:15. We're excited to enjoy the beautiful lights and holiday cheer!



Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 17th 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.

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 invite you to consider making a special offering to Elijah's Backpack in memory of or honoring someone important to you. Names of those to be recognized will be shared during our Christmas Eve worship.

Deck the Halls

Make plans to stay a bit after worship on Sunday, December 3! We plan to enjoy some good fellowship time together with Cafe AND decorate the St. Philip sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons.



December Blood Drive - Monday, December 18, 12pm- 6pm. Sign ups are open online **now**. You are encouraged to go in and sign up at redcrossblood.org to make sure you get your preferred appt time. Once you're on the red cross site, look for zip code 24019, or contact Debbie Kanode at 540-589-6865 if you have questions.

Pass along information about the drive so we can have as many donors as possible! "It feels good to save a life".



December Faith Heroes

Come be a part of adult faith formation as we explore the stories of December Faith Heroes. Ever wondered about who actually is St. Nicholas, join the adult faith formation crew that meets in the library after worship on December 10. Then on December 17 get to know a little bit better Mary, the mother of Jesus - one whom Martin Luther called theotokos which translates "God Bearer".



Feast at Philips! 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, prayers, and donations that make this expansive event possible every year. We are also grateful to Brandon Oaks for loaning us their bus and Feeding SWVA for the use of the Community Solutions Center.



Ladies LUNCHEON

There will be a Ladies' Christmas Luncheon in the St. Philip Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 13 at 12:30pm! Please RSVP to the church office, Linda Rhodes, or Debbie Kanode by December 6. 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.

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)
Alice H. Lebow, Office Administrator (officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net)
Judy Burnette, Director of Music Ministries (music@stphiliplutheran.net)
Jody Draper, Custodian

Church Council

Paul Economy, Council President; Ellen Mehalic, Council Vice-President;
Peter Shick, Treasurer; Dave Mellon, Financial Secretary; Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary;
Members: Patti Henkel, Kendra Meighan, Bruce Johnson,
Dedi Spradlin, Sue Huntington, Donna Wright

St. Philip Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
The Reverend Phyllis Milton, Bishop, Virginia Synod

