

St. Philip Invitation



LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE JANUARY 2024

Building Community at St. Philip

How does a weary world rejoice? This question served as our thematic query during the season of advent. There are certainly times we are weary but those times are lived simultaneously with rejoicing in God's promised hope in Jesus. God ultimately connects with us and one to another and there is joy in those connections. Really this advent theme dovetails seamlessly with St. Philip's ongoing emphasis on building community.

As we continue to celebrate Christmas and the Epiphany that Christ has come to bring good news to people everywhere, we at St. Philip hope to continue to explore God's holy connections. Keep paying attention to the places and spaces in your own lives where God's intention for relationship building takes shape.

Building Community Adult Faith Formation Bible Study

As a part of our theme and intention of Building Community, our Adult Faith Formation on Sunday mornings will dive into conversations about how living in community with one another changes us. The apostle Paul writes in the book of Romans: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect. —Romans 12:2

Flowing from Paul's directive to the church in Rome, we plan to use a bible study based curriculum called. Transformed Community: Freed and Empowered for Radical Welcome. The kind of transformation Paul is talking about, change that requires the "renewing" of minds, is not easily come by. It demands that we not conform to this world but rather live counterculturally. This kind of faithfulness requires a group effort! This study will focus on the nature and character of Christian community—what kind of change it makes in the world and also how it challenges its individual members, even as it sustains them, in the work of living with radical generosity, inclusion, compassion, justice, and forgiveness

Adult Faith Formation will meet in the library starting January 7 at approximately 10:45am



New Treasurer at St. Philip: Thank You Peter Shick

At the December St. Philip Council meeting Max Holland was elected as the new St. Philip treasurer. We are so grateful for Max stepping into this important role!

As we welcome Max into this position, we at St. Philip with overflowing thankfulness thank Peter Shick who has served in the role as St. Philip treasurer for close to 3 decades! One of the talents of treasurers is managing numbers. In that vein we wanted to share Peter's service included: 30 budget/spending plans, over 7000 checks written, over 300 treasurer's reports, hundreds of experiences balancing, reconciling, and accounting. All of it Peter has done with a deep sense of faithfulness and love for God and for St. Philip. His gift of himself to St. Philip is so appreciated.



YOUNG FAMILY MINISTRY

FUN & GAMES at Christ Lutheran - Sunday, January 21 - 4:00-5:30 pm

Board games, card games, movement games and more... Feel free to bring your favorites.

Dinner will be provided. Bring your great ideas for upcoming events too!



Council News -- December 2023
Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary

Council welcomed Marty Frazier to fill the term of Sue Huntington.

Max Holland will be the new Treasurer to follow Peter Shick after 30 years of service.

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday December 17 after the worship service.

The Solar Team Report was reviewed and Council agreed to support the team to move forward with the concept of adding solar power. More details and final decisions will be made after further consideration.

Pastor Laura continues to work with Young Families Monthly gathering and will attend the National Youth Gathering in July in New Orleans with youth from St. Philip and Lutheran churches in the Valley.

Feast at Phillips served over 200 meals and leftovers were taken to the Rescue Mission.

Upcoming blood drive will be December 18 from 12-6pm.

Ladies' luncheon will be December 13.

Advent/Christmas Worship Theme is How does a weary world rejoice?

December 20 is the Longest night service.

Holly Jolly Breakfast is at 9:30am on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve candlelight worship is at 7pm.

We appreciate the work Pastor Laura does with planning worship details and also acknowledge Alice as an important resource who takes care of many tasks and Judy who does a lot of planning and practice with music.

Endowment Application deadline is December 31. A portion of our endowment fund is available for annual distribution.

Treasurer's Report

November receipts were \$14,684 YTD \$243,333—\$46,188 under budget.

November expenses were \$25,288 YTD \$286,813 \$2,709 over budget

Cash balance is \$5,660

Expenses were higher than usual due to a regular annual office expense and for AV equipment repairs.



Prayer Requests

Scott Buchanan – Member
Betty Hammond –Member
Bev Horvath—Member
Sara Aubitz - Member
Emily Totten - Member & Scott Buchanan's sister
Margaret Mitchell



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Fay Whitt	Jan 1
Jerry Falk	Jan 2
Rob Wright	Jan 6
Richard Finger	Jan 8
Robbie Fielder	Jan 10
Glenn Kanode	Jan 16
Zippie Smith	Jan 16
Brent Ferguson	Jan 19
Rosie Falk	Jan 21
Rod Dillman	Jan 22
Madora Dooley	Jan 25



2024 Mid-Winter Power in the Spirit

Commemorating Lydia (Acts 16.11-15), Dorcas (Acts 9.36-43), and Phoebe (Romans 16.1-16)
Celebrating ministries of Business/Philanthropy, Compassion for Others, and Servant Leadership
February 5-7, 2023 on Zoom.

Monday – Wednesday evenings – 5:45pm – 7:15pm

Schedule:

- 5:45pm – 6:20pm – Welcome and Bible Study
- 6:25pm – 7:05pm – Workshops
- 7:05pm – 7:15pm – Evening Prayer

As more information on this digital learning opportunity becomes available it will be posted at:

<https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 4! We are looking forward to celebrating New Member Sunday! If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Philip, please see one of the pastors.



Your St. Philip Staff Is Grateful

Thank you, thank you! Your St. Philip staff is so grateful for the Christmas gift and the deep generosity of this congregation. The privilege of serving alongside all of you to proclaim the love of Christ in the world is truly the gift that keeps on giving. Thank you for your generosity and thank you for all the ways that we partner in mission throughout the year.



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.



December Blood Drive - Thank you to all of the volunteers and donors that made the December Blood Drive such a success! It was a completely full drive and those donations will go on to save many lives! Thank you, thank you! The next drive will be May 6, 2024.



Ladies LUNCHEON

Thank you to our St. Philip ladies for organizing another wonderful ladies Christmas luncheon! Good food and fellowship were shared and items were collected for Lion's Share food pantry! Thank you everyone for a great afternoon!

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;
Max Holland Treasurer; Dave Mellon, Financial Secretary; Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary;
Members: Patti Henkel, Kendra Meighan, Bruce Johnson,
Dedi Spradlin, Marty Frazier, 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

