

# St. Philip Invitation

*LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE MAY 2025*



## Thankful and Grateful for Ministry Together: A Letter of Love From Pastor David

Dear St. Philip:

April 1st marked 25 years of ministry together with me as pastor and you as community of faith gathered at St. Philip. I am so, so thankful for the wonderful reception recognizing this milestone and for the chance to share stories of time connected to one another. You all are amazing! I am so privileged to serve as your pastor and I love each of you!

Even as a milestone of a quarter of a century together is celebrated, it is abundantly clear that the life we have shared is about more than me; more than us in 2025. What I love very most about our relationship together is that we are church - faithful people gathering as community to live out the love of Jesus. We are about Jesus!

Twenty five years is a long time. One of the gifts of that time is the cascade of people who have called St. Philip their spiritual home. There will of course continue to be an ebb and flow of God's people for whom St. Philip is a place for them to be fed by God's love and grow in faith. That inevitability is what has always been what makes my heart sing. And God's not done with us yet. My prayer for us is to keep living faithfully and hopefully in this moment confident that God's got us, always.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor David



## Home Communion Ministry

Bringing the Lord's Supper and Word to you

In the early years of the church, Christians would gather in homes to worship God and to celebrate Holy Communion. With Holy Communion Christ Jesus promises to be with us, connect us, forgive us, and empower us.

For a number of years St. Philip has highlighted the power and grace of the Lord's Supper through home communion ministry. This vital ministry is an additional opportunity to share the Sacrament of Communion with shut-ins, the sick, the elderly, and others who might be physically unable to get to church in order to participate in worship. We have discovered that this ministry is a wonderful way for the community at St. Philip to connect with Christ and each other.

The Home Communion Ministry Team is currently matching communion ministers with folks who need a visit. If you would like to be a communion minister please speak with Karen Barnett or Liz Leonard for more details. We can provide you everything you need for this important ministry.



## Council News -- April 2023

### Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary

Church Council met on Tuesday April 9 in person and via Zoom.

Pastor David is taking on additional work especially during the season of Lent and planning Easter week services.

We need to identify people to help lead music each week.

We continue to search for a music leader and council reviewed some criteria and goals for this role.

Pastor David visits homebound members during Easter and Christmas and over the summer and we have additional members who take communion to homes other times.

We are capturing solar power and will have updates soon.

The church website has been updated and we thank Dan Radmacher for his assistance.

Thank you to Bruce Johnson, Marty Frazier, Desi Spradlin and Ellen Mehalic for serving on council. We appreciate your dedication and service.

A congregational meeting will be held Sunday April 27 to elect new council members.

On the ballot will be Dedi and Ellen and Brent Ferguson along with a fourth name.

Virginia Synod Assembly voting members will be Dan and Shannon Radmacher.

### Treasurer's Report -- Max Holland

March receipts \$33,484

March expenses \$19,715

There were a few large gifts received this month. The HVAC system required some repair and has been completed. Max continues to streamline accounts and reporting.



Cathy Dudley	May 01
Shannon Radmacher	May 06
Kevin Britt	May 07
Abby Mellon	May 12
Chuck Spradlin	May 12
Patricia Henkel	May 18
Tina Waldron	May 19
Paul Economy	May 20
Ellie Forbes	May 20
Bill Wilhelm	May 21
Stuart Dillon	May 22
Catherine Mehalic	May 22
Lisa Greer	May 23
Peter Shick	May 23
Mary McCutchen	May 24
Gary Dudley	May 27
Billy Elliott	May 27
Anna Radtke	May 27

## We Are a Praying Community of Faith

One of the powerful witnesses of the gathered community of faith every Sunday morning is the opportunity to pray for the church, the world, and all in need. We also have an opportunity to lift to God's care people who are particularly near and dear to us. If you would like to have someone included in our weekly prayer at St. Philip please add the first and last name of the one for whom you would like to be remembered on the prayer list for each Sunday. The list is located in the gathering area (narthex) on the green clipboard and includes lists for the entire month. If you worship via livestream email Pastor David ([pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net)) to have someone included on the weekly Sunday prayer lists.



## **BLOOD DRIVE COMING SOON AND THE NEED IS GREAT! -**

Please mark your calendar for our next blood drive - Monday, May 5th 12 -6pm. As always, the need for blood is critical and with summer fast approaching, the need will increase. **PLEASE share with your family, friends, and co-workers about our blood drives.**

When blood is donated to the American Red Cross we are not only supporting the efforts to save lives but we are also giving back to our communities as the Red Cross responds to disasters like fires, floods, and other natural disasters.

GIVING BLOOD....SAVES LIVES AND NOT JUST LIVES FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.... A GREAT WAY TO GIVE BACK!



## **Our Chrismon Project Continues**

Our next date to repair and make Chrismons is Tuesday, May 20th at 10:30am in the classroom across from the kitchen. No experience needed and all are welcome. Come join the fun and fellowship.

***Linda Duncan Rhodes***

## **Lutheran Night at Salem Red Sox**

**Calling ALL LUTHERANS OF THE ROANOKE VALLEY (and FRIENDS)!**

You are invited to a special night at the Salem Red Sox on August 9, 2025! Come and cheer for the Sox against the Kannapolis Cannon Ballers!

Take advantage of special pricing for our group--tickets are just \$13 for reserved seating where we'll all sit together in the concourse level!

You don't have to be Lutheran to enjoy "Lutheran Night," but you will meet many Lutherans from congregations throughout the Roanoke Valley!

**Click here to purchase tickets in our group section!**



## **Power in the Spirit Coming in July - Save the Date**

*"Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31 NRSVUE)*



When we are tired or weary and feel like fainting, God promises to revive us and to raise us up – with strength like that of an eagle's wings. This hope in God is sure and true because "The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth – who doesn't grow tired or weary." (Isaiah 40:28) All of creation – the waters of the earth, the night sky filled with stars, the dust of the earth, the mountains and hills – all creation reflects God's glory (Isaiah 40:12, 26). In God's great love and compassion for humanity, God gathers us all in loving arms, lifting us up onto God's lap (Isaiah 40:11). Who can compare with God!?!

Join Maryn Olson, Director of Lutheran Disaster Response for the ELCA, as the keynote speaker, Rev. Bobby Morris, Pastor of St. Matthew's in Pomaria, South Carolina, as our Bible study leader, and Michael Benshish, our music leader, for Power in the Spirit on **July 17-19 at Roanoke College**

**AND CATHY DUDLEY** one of our very own from St. Philip will lead one of the workshops entitled "Retirement with God—some of the Best Days of your life.

St. Philip Lutheran Church  
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Change Service Requested

**David C. Derrick, Pastor** ([pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net))  
**Alice H. Lebow, Office Administrator** ([officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net))

**Church Council**

Ellen Mehalic, Council President; Dan Radmacher, Council Vice-President;  
Max Holland Treasurer; Dave Mellon, Financial Secretary; Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary;  
Members: Mary Jo Sahm, Liz Leonard, Bruce Johnson,  
Dedi Spradlin, Marty Frazier, Paul Economy

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

