

St. Philip Invitation

LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE SEPTEMBER 2025



Welcome New Office Administrator Rae Barker

My warmest regards to the congregation of St. Philip Lutheran! My name is Rae Barker, and I am delighted to be serving your church community as the new Office Administrator. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I grew up in beautiful Salem, Virginia and attended Salem High School. I have two amazing younger sisters and a two-year-old niece whom I love dearly. My mother still lives in Salem, and my dad lives at Smith Mountain Lake. I have lived in several places around the country in my adulthood, but nothing compares to our incredible mountains. I love being outside on our trails and in our parks—Tinker Cliffs is my favorite hike!

I grew up knowing and loving Jesus, but I struggled with addiction and mental health in my late teens and early twenties. It wasn't until 2016 that I had a radical encounter with the Holy Spirit that changed my life. I have been proudly in recovery since then, not always perfect, but always living in God's grace.

Because of God's mercy and faithfulness, I was able to work bring hope and treatment to people living with Substance Use Disorder in the Roanoke Valley as a Peer Recovery Specialist. I went back to college in my mid-twenties and graduated from Radford University with a degree in Special Education, during which I also worked as a Recovery Specialist for the students. I hope to eventually go back to graduate school for a Masters degree and my teaching license. No matter what my career, I always look to serve the most vulnerable in the flock.

I currently live right here in Hollins. In my free time, I love making music. I am a singer, a songwriter, and a (very poor) piano player. I love performing my original music with my friend (who is also my former worship pastor). Writing poetry and music is how I feel closest to the Lord and most connected to my joy. I also love dancing with hula hoops and reading books about astrophysics.

I am grateful and excited to be serving St. Philip and our church neighborhood. Pastor David and several of your members have already been so welcoming. I look forward to getting to know your community!

With so much gratitude,

Rae Barker

WELCOME



Roanoke Valley Lutheran Youth Kick Off A New Year at St. Philip

Lutheran youth from all over the Roanoke Valley will gather at St. Philip on September 14 to remember baptism as we have some water fun on the very best homemade slip in slide in the Hollins area. The fun begins at 4pm on the back hill with pick up at 6pm(dinner will be provided). Be sure to check out social media to see the ways water, fun, fellowship, laughter, and food all form discipleship in the youth of our com-

Good Food, Good Mood, Good Picnic

We are excited to invite all members of St. Philip Church to join us for our annual church picnic on Sunday, September 7 starting at 4pm!

We encourage you to bring friends, family members, and neighbors. Everyone is welcome, whether

they attend our church or not. St. Philip will be providing delicious hamburgers and hot dogs along with fun lawn games for all ages to enjoy. Please bring a comfortable seat and a dish to pass so we can share a wonderful meal together as a community. Come for the food, games, and fellowship. There will be a sign up sheet to confirm the number attending and the sides. We can't wait to see you there!





DAY OF SERVICE THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped the Day of Service event with the residents of Melrose Towers be such a success! Many items were shared with the residents and all enjoyed a wonderful and filling breakfast! Thank you for helping us love, feed, and serve like Christ in the community!

Farewell and Godspeed Karen Barnett

One of the St. Philip saints, Karen Barnett, is moving away from the Roanoke Valley to be closer to family. We give great thanks for the relationship, the ministry, and the connections Karen has made among us. Encircled with love and with prayers of Thanksgiving, we wish Godspeed to Karen as she begins this new chapter in her life. Karen's last Sunday at St. Philip will be September 21st.



Cookie Consiglio	Sept. 1
Lillian Theresa Mehalic	Sept 1
Dan Radmacher	Sept. 2
Nancy Shadix	Sept. 3
Mark Nelson	Sept. 8
Diane Farmer	Sept. 9
Larry Payne	Sept. 11
Kathleen Radtke	Sept. 14
Linda Duncan Rhodes	Sept. 14
Selise Miller	Sept. 15
Drew Derrick	Sept. 18
Dave Whetzel	Sept. 19
Mary Wingate	Sept. 23
Heidi Speakman	Sept. 25
Ellen Mehalic	Sept. 26
Ella Johnston	Sept. 27
Ridge Radtke	Sept. 28
Mary Jo Sahm	Sept. 28
Dedi Spradlin	Sept. 30

Pub Theology Conversation Is Back In September

Grab a drink or a bite to eat and come hang out with Pastor David and have some conversation focused upon what do we wonder about heaven? This will be a chance to wonder together. Meet at Hollywood's Restaurant Thursdays at 7pm on September 4 and September 11.



**Roanoke Valley Youth
24th Annual Golf Tournament**

**Saturday, October 25th
at Blue Hills Golf Club**

**NEW THIS YEAR: Lunch at Blue Hills at
12:30pm with Shotgun start at 1:30pm**

Register by Oct. 17th - \$360 per team/\$90 per golfer

Support youth ministry in the Roanoke Valley! .

Please, please consider putting together a team of golfers or inviting golfers you know to play. [Registration Form](#).

Council News -- August 2025

Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary
Council News -- August 2025

Council met on Tuesday August 12 in person and via Zoom.

Pastor David has been exceptionally busy the past few months with worship planning, newsletter articles, staff search for an office administrator and permanent director of music as well as scheduling substitute musicians. He continues hospital and homebound visits and calls and messages and notes. He assisted with the Blood Drive.

Special thanks to Maribeth Schermer for stepping in to help with office duties over the summer. We appreciate her willingness to fill in and her expertise and efficiency. Thank you Maribeth !!

The property committee has obtained a proposal for updating the HVAC in the fellowship hall and council approved proceeding with that.

The personnel team has reviewed applicants for office administrator and has identified one they would like to extend an offer to. Council approved and Rae Barker began her ministry at St. Philip as office administrator August 18 (Please see front page article introducing and welcoming Rae)



The Stewardship Appeal resulted in 14 intent cards reflected an increase in intended giving over last year. The pool of givers has changed due to moves, deaths and sickness. The amount pledged has decreased yet this was never used as a forecast or to develop a spending plan.

In any given year the intent cards only reflect 50-75% of actual revenue received in the year. The purpose for conducting an annual appeal is to continue to grow a culture of generosity and discipleship among our members. Financial giving is only one way our members contribute.

Along with the St. Philip stewardship team, church council extends a heart felt thanks to our faith community for their generosity in supporting our shared mission to love, feed and serve (also see Stewardship article in this newsletter)

The congregational picnic will be sponsored by church council and is Sunday September 7 from 4-6pm. Please join us and extend an invitation to anyone and everyone!

Treasurer's Report

June revenue \$26,729

July revenue \$20,832

June expenses \$13,048

July expenses \$16,713

Investments are doing well as the market has been good. The investment account from which we withdrew funds to pay for solar panels has appreciated to the point of returning to the original value prior to withdrawals WHILE we continue to see enormous saving on our power bill.

Thank You for Your Intent Cards! Thank You for Your Generosity!



The Stewardship Team would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all our St. Philippian brothers and sisters that helped to make our annual stewardship appeal a success this year. We are very encouraged and inspired by the faithful response of so many in our congregation.

We received 49 intent cards and are so grateful for the ways your generosity helps us to together Live Like That (Christ) to Love Feed and Serve. Thank you! And thanks be to God!

Please remember that if you share your offering via electronic giving and would like to make a change to the amount of your generosity you will need to initiate any changes. For help with changing contribution amounts contact St. Philip's financial secretary Dave Mellon abdave813@msn.com If you have any questions about stewardship, generosity through the ministry of St. Philip, or our annual appeal please speak to any one of our stewardship team members: Gary Sahn, Max Holland, or Pastor David.

St. Philip Lutheran Church
8115 Williamson Road
Roanoke, VA 24019

Change Service Requested

David C. Derrick, Pastor (pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net)
Rae Barker, Office Administrator (officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net)
Director of Music Ministries (music@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

