

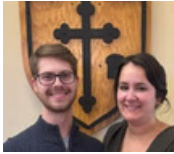
# St. Philip Invitation

◆ LIVE LIKE THAT: LOVE, FEED, SERVE.



February  
2026

## Welcome Home, New Members!



Angel Muir is a Roanoke College grad and met her husband, Nick, through the Virginia Synod. They were married in May 2025 and currently live in the Cave Spring area with their cat Hank. Angel is thankful to have been embraced by the St. Philip community.

Betty Kelly - I am originally from Frederick County MD. I graduated from Radford with a teaching degree and worked in Roanoke County preschools for 29 years. I have four wonderful children and 6 grandchildren whom I dearly love. I enjoy walking on trails to see native plants and beautiful views.



Emily and Rob Chaplin live in Cloverdale. They met while they were both attending Eastern Mennonite University. Emily is a nurse with Carilion and Rob is a band director for Botetourt County Public Schools. They enjoy hiking, making music, and spending time with their cats.

After being a member of St. Philip in my childhood it is good to be back as an adult. It has been good to reconnect along with my dad Jerry Gray. I teach school, enjoy hanging out with my kids, and being outside especially during hunting season.



I, Anne, am from NJ and my husband, Bryan, is from Roanoke. We have been married for 42 years this September. I have traveled a little bit while being an Army Wife. We have lived in Texas (2 times), Wiesbaden Germany, Alabama, and Virginia (2 times). We decided together to make Roanoke VA our home after Bryan retired from the Army. When we moved to Roanoke, Bryan became a Police Officer (now retired from the police force). I have come to love Roanoke. We have 2 daughters, Katie and Erin, both married, and 5 grandchildren. We love our grands to bits. I have retired from cutting hair in the salon, but occasionally will cut some family and friends' hair. We enjoy getting away for a few days, especially to Gatlinburg TN.

## FROM THE CORNER...

### To Understand the Love of God

**"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."**

Luke 15:20b

This story of the lost son and the loving father may come as close as we can get to understanding the love of God, a love that endures and transcends all obstacles, all pain, and all mistakes.

Even though God knew that his children would one day reject his love and crush his heart, he still chose to love them, and when God incarnate in Jesus was rejected by his children, he simply gave himself to them and allowed them to crush him, figuratively and literally.

And he chose to love them still.

He chooses to love us still.

As we enter the season of Lent this month, we remember this transcendent love that is gifted to us through Christ. Lent gives us the opportunity to sit in sacred silence and stillness and be thankful that we are so loved.

*Sacred silence, help me listen. Holy Spirit, come and speak to me; come and be with me.*

*(Booth, Pixler, Kuner)*

-Donita Moore, Ministry Associate for Worship and Engagement

## COUNCIL NEWS FROM COUNCIL SECRETARY KAREN LOWDON

The Church Council meeting on Tuesday, January 13th covered several key areas of church life, including finances, ministry updates, and future planning.

Max presented a financial report detailing December's offering and activity in the Davenport account. The council discussed and reviewed plans to consolidate the Global Missions account into the general checking account to improve financial efficiency.

Pastor David reported that he devoted additional time this month to preparing for and presiding over worship services. He continues to provide pastoral care through home and hospital visits, along with ongoing phone calls and written communication. Pastor David also shared updates on the formation of a new altar guild team and announced the addition of seven new members to the congregation. The council discussed the need for a designated photographer to update the church website with current photographs. Members expressed appreciation for Rae and Donita for their collaboration and initiatives that have strengthened communication and enhanced worship experiences.

A motion was approved to approach three specific individuals to fill an endowment team member position for a five-year term beginning in 2026.

The meeting concluded with prayer for members facing health challenges and an announcement regarding upcoming worship leadership.

### Treasurer's Report

December revenue \$19,961

December expenses \$25,033

Davenport investments help cover the difference.

## Communion Celebration/First Communion Instruction



Holy Communion is one of the powerful ways that we share community with one another and the world in worship. The children of St. Philip – both those already communing and those not yet communing– are invited to receive communion instruction on Sunday mornings, after worship, in the sanctuary, Sunday, February 15th and Sunday, February 22nd (starting about 10:45am).

## Cafe News



Beginning January 4th, Cafe will be available every Sunday after the service. If you have a special treat or snack you would like to occasionally share during Cafe, it will be welcomed and enjoyed. We are also looking for individuals or couples to assist with making coffee and lemonade and setting up. Please see Nancy or Charlie Shadix or Linda Duncan Rhodes or look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. We look forward to joining together for fellowship and conversation.



### 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.



FREDRICK LOVELACE	FEB 1
CLARA JOHNSTON	FEB 3
DOUG LAYMAN	FEB 4
KARI HARVEY	FEB 10
AL SIMPSON	FEB 11
BRADLEY CRAIG	FEB 12
AMY LOVELACE	FEB 12
SHARON WHETZEL	FEB 27
JOANN MICHAEL	FEB 28



## STEWARDS OF AGAPE



*How limited our view of love has become in our Western world*, I think as I am assaulted by red and pink marketing upon entering the grocery store with my sister and niece. I'm not big on Valentine's Day. Mushy, gushy sentiments, overpriced candy, and flowers that will die within the week don't make for much of a holiday, in my humble opinion. Love surely cannot be contained in heart-shaped boxes. I believe it cannot even be contained by a single word.

The Greeks had seven or eight words for love, including: *eros*, physical love felt between romantic partners; *philos*, a warm affection felt by friends and loved ones; and *agapē*, the unconditional, sacrificial, Divine Love. As a child, I could conceptualize *eros*, and I knew *philos* well. I had tasted *agapē* through the love of my parents. But it wasn't until my niece was born that I knew a little better what "selfless love" meant.

There is nothing I wouldn't do for that beautiful little girl, nothing I wouldn't sacrifice to make sure she was safe and happy, nothing I wouldn't do to protect her. When I am feeling full of shame or grief, I try to imagine how much more God feels this love toward me. This revelation allows me to turn away from my selfishness to pour out the love I have received on others. It reminds me that love is not a feeling, but rather a responsibility to carry. I am called to steward that love to God's creation—to nurture it, care for it, and pass it on.

My goal this February is to walk past the cheap imitations of love and let it be a reminder of the real thing: *agapē*, the unending, all-powerful, radiant, perfect love of God—a love not meant to be consumed, but faithfully tended and stewarded every day.

Peace and grace,

Rae Barker, Office Administrator



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 \$500 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 1 in the bin on the front steps of the church or bring donations to worship on Sunday, February 8. Together we can help end hunger right here in Roanoke!

## Mid-Week Lenten Series

Every Lent, several Lutheran churches in the Roanoke Valley gather together for worship and fellowship on Wednesday evenings. We are looking forward to this great tradition again this year. Each week you are invited to join the conversation between Jesus and his partners from the previous Sunday's gospel reading. How does each character inform a contemporary life of discipleship? How might Jesus respond now to our own questions, confusions, and need for healing? Make plans to come for dinner at 6pm and worship at 7pm, in the fellowship hall, as we enrich our faith in God and relationships with one another this Lenten season.

Wednesdays	
6:00 PM Light Meal	
7:00 PM Worship Service	
Offerings to Benefit Camp Caroline Furnace	
Lenten Schedule	
Feb. 25	St. Philip Lutheran Church Williamson Rd.
Mar. 4	St. Mark's Lutheran Church Franklin Rd.
Mar. 11	Glade Creek Lutheran Church Blue Ridge
Mar. 18	St. Philip Lutheran Church Williamson Rd.
Mar. 25	Trinity Lutheran Church Williamson Rd.
All Are Welcome!	



St. Philip Lutheran Church  
8115 Williamson Rd | 540-366-7046  
[www.facebook.com/StPhilipLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/StPhilipLutheran)

# ASH WEDNESDAY

*Worship*

**Feb 18th, 7pm  
In Person and Facebook Live**

## ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, February 22nd

On February 23, 1958, a charter was signed beginning the life of Saint Philip Lutheran Church. During worship on Sunday, February 22, we will commemorate our 68th 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. Join us for worship on the 22nd at 9:30am to celebrate our anniversary together.

LIKE A  
BLANKET OF  
SNOW,  
MAY GOD'S  
PEACE COVER  
YOU IN THIS  
LENTEN  
SEASON



8115 WILLIAMSON ROAD  
ROANOKE, VA 24019

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DAVID C. DERRICK, PASTOR (PASTORDAVID@STPHILILUTHERAN.NET)  
RAE BARKER, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR (OFFICEADMIN@STPHILILUTHERAN.NET)  
DONITA MOORE, MINISTRY ASSOCIATE FOR WORSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT (WORSHIP@STPHILILUTHERAN.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, BRENT FERGUSON,  
MARIBETH SCHERMER, DEDI SPRADLIN, 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

