

St. Philip Invitation

◆ LIVE LIKE THAT: LOVE, FEED, SERVE.



March 2026



Recognize Your Need to Give

Just as a coin, Christian giving has two sides. We often center mostly on the side titled "The Needs of the Church". Unfortunately, we often fail to consider the other side titled "My Need to Give". This side, the "My Need to Give" side, is an integral part of our spiritual lives and our growth as disciples of Christ.

It is a fundamental spiritual and psychological principle that life and its gifts are to be used and shared. Life cannot be hoarded or it turns upon itself and you lose it.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy and where thieves break in and steal." (Matthew 6:19)

"Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for

my sake will find it. (Matthew 16:25).

We each have a deep inherent need to give. To give is to live!

But unfortunately, instead of focusing on our own need to give, all too often we center on the need of the church to receive. The church DOES seek our support and we are called to provide financial support. However, we must remember it is God's Church and it is eternal and the amount of our financial giving will not jeopardize that. The WONDER of giving is what we stand to gain for ourselves. God invites us to let our gratitude to Him lead us to experience the joy and blessing of generously supporting and extending His mission. Grace upon Grace.

-Gary Sahn



NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

Each April the community at St. Philip elects leaders to serve as a part of the church council. Church council serves the congregation as the primary decision making body for our community. A nominating committee has been formed to help identify some potential people to serve in this incredibly important role. Check your weekly announcements in the coming week and consider being nominated yourself or if you think of some other gifted member of this community be sure to share those suggestions with the committee.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

REECE DERRICK	3/1
LIZ LEONARD	3/5
GARY WALDRON	3/10
POLLY KANODE	3/12
LYNN ERWIN	3/17
RYAN MEHALIC	3/18
TESA HASH	3/25
KRISTIAN SCHULT	3/25



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous support of Souper Bowl of Caring! Together, we were able to collect over 800 food items go to St. Mark's Lions Share Food Pantry, as well as a love offering to go to Feeding America of Southwest Virginia. Thank you again for loving, feeding, and serving our neighbors.

COUNCIL NEWS FROM COUNCIL SECRETARY KAREN LOWDON

The Church Council met on Tuesday, February 10, both in person and via Zoom.

Pastor David reported that regular worship planning, communication, and pastoral care continue on a daily basis. He, our Office Administrator, and our Ministry Associate for Worship and Engagement are working closely together to prepare worship services and minister to the congregation of St. Philip. During the past two Sundays, there was no in-person worship, and Pastor David provided live-streamed services instead.

The Altar Guild has been revitalized and is now led by Betty Holland. Members of the group include Linda Rhodes, Bryan and Ann Jenkins, Mona Ferguson, Debbie Kanode, Cindy Fielder, and Cookie Consiglio. We are grateful for their dedication and faithful service to our worship life.

Property and facility management continue to be a priority. Current plans include improving building security, cleaning and painting exterior surfaces of the church, and addressing necessary tree work on the property.

The Collaborative Youth Ministry remains active and ongoing.

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held in April for the purpose of electing new council members.

Lenten services this year will be held jointly with Glade Creek, St. Mark, and Trinity Lutheran Churches

The Council approved the 2026 Endowment Fund disbursements. Funds will be distributed from the Endowment account as follows:

\$5,000 to support Elijah's Backpack weekend food ministry

\$7,500 to support Lions' Share Feeding Ministry through St. Mark Lutheran Church

\$2,000 for new initiatives in worship and music ministry

\$2,000 as seed money for the Grace Period collaborative ministry

\$3,500 for digital ministry technology replacement and live-streaming upgrades

In the **Treasurer's Report**, January finances were as follows:

January revenue: \$23,326

January expenses: \$23,747

January was a good month for offerings, and expenses were generally in line with expectations.

FROM THE CORNER...

Living Hope

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... 1 Peter 1:3b

In the penitential season of Lent, we sometimes get lost in the dark tunnel of penitence and forget the light of joy at the end of the tunnel. In Lutheran Lenten tradition, we read the story of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, and we figuratively bury the "Alleluia" and resurrect it on Easter Sunday, reminders of the hope of resurrection for all of us.

In 1 Peter, the writer refers to "a living hope" as a noun, something tangible that we can experience. We could also think of "living (out) hope" as a verb, meaning to choose to live our lives based on our belief in resurrection and new life for all.

Laetare (Rejoice!), the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the Sunday mid-way through Lent when we celebrate the hope of resurrection in the midst of the darkness of penitence. It reminds us that, even though we are broken, there is joyful restoration at the end of the tunnel, and it reminds us not to get stuck in the darkness but to persevere in living out hope along the journey.

From death to life, I no longer live, but Christ now lives in me. Clothed in righteousness and crowned with holiness, I am new. (Francois)

-Donita Moore, Ministry Associate for Worship and Engagement

Celebrating First Communion



Holy Communion is one of the powerful ways that we share community with one another and the world in worship. We celebrate with Emmett Luedtke, Catherine Mehalic, and Finley Monroe as they celebrate their first communion on Palm Sunday, March 28. Be sure to speak with these young people as they mark this special time in their faith journey.

St. Philip Landscaping and Clean Up Day



Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28 from 9am - Noon for a day of clean up, pruning, mulching, and landscaping. Many hands make light work! Bring with you any tools for trimming things and moving mulch so that our building and grounds are attractive and cared for.

HOLY WEEK

LIVE OR ON FACEBOOK



PALM SUNDAY
🕒 9:30 am



MAUNDY THURSDAY
🕒 7:00 pm



GOOD FRIDAY
🕒 7:00 pm



EASTER SUNDAY
🕒 SUNRISE: 7 am
🕒 9:30 am

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!

8115 WILLIAMSON ROAD
ROANOKE, VA 24019

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

