

St. Philip Invitation

LIVE LIKE THAT: LOVE, FEED, SERVE.

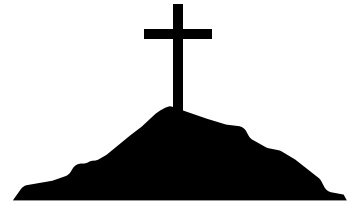


APRIL
2026



BUILDING ON A CULTURE
OF GENEROSITY
ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gratitude: An Attitude of Christian Love A Stewardship Message from Gary Sahn



In his book, "The Purpose of the Church and its Ministry", theologian and Christian ethicist H. Richard Niebuhr outlines four attitudes of Christian love. One of the attitudes Niebuhr names is gratitude. * Niebuhr writes, "Love is gratitude: it is the thankfulness for the existence of the beloved; it is the happy acceptance of everything that he gives without the jealous feeling that the self ought to be able to do as much; it is a gratitude that does not seek equality; it is wonder over the other's gift of himself in companionship."

When we reflect on the spiritual aspects of giving, generosity, and Christian stewardship the theme of gratitude plays a key role in our motivations. Unfortunately, the topic of giving and the messaging around stewardship often solicits feelings of obligation or guilt or scarcity...even dread. The spiritual aspects of giving and generosity often take a back seat to

budgeting, expenses vs. revenue, return on investment etc. It is at these times that I believe it would be helpful if we redirect our focus on love and gratitude.

When we experience gratitude for the love that we receive, we automatically respond by loving. When we are grateful for mercy, we can offer mercy. When we are grateful for forgiveness, we can offer forgiveness. When we are grateful for gifts we receive, we offer gifts.

Developing an attitude of gratitude will produce true joy and happiness in our lives. Starting with an attitude of gratitude may also lead us to a better understanding of what it means to love God, and to love our neighbor.

**The other three "attitudes" Niebuhr names are: 1) Rejoicing over the existence of the beloved one, 2) Reverence, and 3) Loyalty.*

PSALM 73:26

MY FLESH AND MY HEART MAY FAIL, BUT GOD
IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART AND MY
PORTION FOREVER



COUNCIL NEWS
 Council News — March 2026
 Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary

REPORTS: Council met on Tuesday, March 10, in person and via Zoom. Over the past month, the church has held multiple worship services, hosted youth group events, provided First Communion instruction, supported a blood drive at St. Philip, offered premarital counseling, and addressed property needs.

Pastoral coverage will be in place for emergencies during March 23–27 with Pastor James Davis.

FUTURE: Looking ahead, exterior painting and power washing are scheduled for this summer. New streaming cameras and a worship computer will also be installed. Endowment distributions have supported St. Mark Lion's Share, Elijah's Backpack, and upcoming streaming upgrades.

MISSIONS: Clean-Up Day is planned for Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Congregational Meeting will be held April 26 after church, when new council members will be elected.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for the congregational meeting on Sunday, April 26 at 10:30am immediately following worship both in the sanctuary and by way of Zoom video conference **(Meeting i.d. 86040199836, Password 24019**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86040199836?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86040199836?pwd=ZVpoN2NyeFFWTDR2WmNWWR2SVJjdz09)
pwd=ZVpoN2NyeFFWTDR2WmNWWR2SVJjdz09)**

The congregation will be electing church council members - please check your mail or email box for notice and more information including brief biographies of candidates running for church council.

It is so important for all of us to be a part of God's mission through St. Philip.
Please make plans to be here on April 26!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- CRAIG MARLENE 4/02
- JIM BURKE 4/08
- PRICE WINGATE 4/09
- BETTY HOLLAND 4/14
- MAGGIE MCDANIEL 4/18
- GARTH MCNIELL 4/19
- RON OVERSTREET 4/19
- DONNA WRIGHT 4/19
- FINLEY MONROE 4/21
- CAROL GOAD 4/27
- ADAM GRAY 4/30

TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY OFFERINGS

PROJECTED YTD BUDGET \$44,056
 RECEIPTS YEAR TO DATE \$47,469
 EXPENSES YEAR TO DATE \$45,491

THERE WAS A REIMBURSEMENT FROM OUR DAVENPORT ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT

CHRIST IS RISEN
 LET'S CELEBRATE!

Easter Sunday Breakfast

April 5th in the Fellowship Hall
 Immediately following 9:30
 worship

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH



HOLY WEEK
 LIVE OR ON FACEBOOK

- MAR 29** **PALM SUNDAY** 9:30 am
- APR 02** **MAUNDY THURSDAY** 7:00 pm
- APR 03** **GOOD FRIDAY** 7:00 pm
- APR 05** **EASTER SUNDAY**
 SUNRISE: 7 am
 9:30 am

ST. PHILIP ENDOWMENT GRANTS FOR MINISTRY

We are blessed. The St. Philip Endowment Fund is an incredible resource for ministry. During the past decade disbursements from this fund have made possible so much ranging from benevolent contributions to partners locally, nationally, and globally, to seed money for new ministries like our digital worship, to capital improvements, and much more. We are so grateful for how these resources support our mission to Love and Feed and Serve.

This year we are grateful for the mission we do through endowment disbursements with contributions to Lion's Share Food Ministry and Elijah's Backpack. Be sure to check out the St. Philip livestream on Sunday mornings as new streaming cameras enhance that important worship experience. We explore new ministry opportunities collaborating with other local Lutheran congregations and have seed money to be creative. All of these are ways we respond to God's calling us to be the light of Christ in the world.



FROM THE CORNER

Resurrection Children

'Believers' are children of God and children of the resurrection.

Luke 20:36 (NLT)

We have just completed another year of our annual Lenten journey, a time when we remind ourselves who we are and whose we are through self-reflection, confession, request for mercy and forgiveness, and finally celebration of God's eternal love given to us as children of God and children of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus gave everything, so we too must give everything. It's not a part-time job.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Donita

LIVE LIKE THAT – EXTEND AN EASTER INVITATION

Even as we live through a reflective and confessional time during the season of Lent, we remember that St. Philip will celebrate boldly God's promise made real through the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is alive, and that indeed is good news.

One important way we celebrate is by extending an invitation. **Easter is Sunday, April 5th.** For many who are not connected to a worshiping community, it is often at Easter time that God's Spirit is moving in a way that at least raises some questions of curiosity. For many, the last impediment to seeing what this "Christian stuff" is all about can be overcome with a simple invitation!

This Easter, extend an invitation to a friend, a co-worker, an extended family member, an acquaintance, or even a stranger to connect with St. Philip on Easter Sunday. You can make that happen with an invitation to join you in the sanctuary or by sharing opportunities to worship digitally. Make the invitation then get out of the way and let God's Holy Spirit take over. The love God demonstrates in the death and resurrection of Jesus – it's a love that's most definitely worth sharing.



SPRING FLOWERS

On Easter Sunday (April 5) spring flowers will adorn and decorate the worship space. As we continue to celebrate the Easter season you are invited to take any of these potted flowers home to plant and remember the Easter promise all spring and summer long.

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

