

St. Philip Invitation

◆ LIVE LIKE THAT: LOVE, FEED, SERVE.



October 2026



**At St. Philip we want to Live Like That:
Love, Feed, Serve!**

A designated Day of Service is a part of how God's mission has taken shape. Of course the Day of Service is just one of many days of service, but at St. Philip that has involved hanging out and helping out at a number of places. The YMCA in Bedford, Minnick School in Roanoke, and Lutheran Family Services all had spruce up days at their locations. During the last several years the Day of Service has happened in partnership with Melrose Towers apartment community.

Did you know that St. Philip has been connecting with Melrose Towers (a lower income apartment community) for well over a decade. AND did you know that for the past 9 years St. Philip and our friends at Melrose Towers have shared a meal together.

In August 2017, St. Philip prepped a meal to share and a meal has been shared ever since! Even during the year the COVID pandemic changed everything, a meal was cooked, boxed and handed out in the parking lot to maintain the prerequisite social distancing of that time.

Over that time there have been countless people who have been part of this ministry. There is truly something magical about sharing a meal together. Though food is always needed the very best part is the connections made, the stories told, and the community gathered.

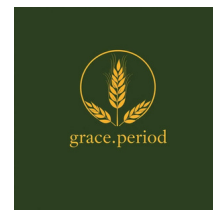
Keep an eye out in the newsletter in the coming months for other featured ministries.

NAME	DAY
Max Holland	11
Loretta Roush	13
Nick Muir	15
Chuck Jecminek	21
Dave Mellon	23
Doug Peoples	28
Derrick Radtke	29
Ruth Heinzelmann	30
Lynn Lawson	31



GRACE.PERIOD - First Free Food Pantry A Sign of Grace

God's Spirit is on the move at St. Philip, but also with Lutherans and community folk throughout the Roanoke Valley.



On Saturday, September 5, Grace.Period launched a new ministry initiative answering Jesus' call to care for and feed the hungry. From 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. free food was distributed at the former site of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Vinton to anyone and everyone who could use something to eat. With the help of 10 volunteers over 300 people left with either a bit more food in their bellies or a bit more food for their food shelves (many with both).

What started with a request from the St. Philip Endowment to provide seed money for some sort of collaborative ministry, then moved to a conversation of 4 pastors (Pastor David included) dreaming about "what might we do together". That and subsequent conversations gravitated to an understanding that whatever might happen together had to be centered around grace - and Grace.Period was born - God's Spirit is on the move. And the collaboration was just getting started.

With the bold and faithful decision of St. Timothy Lutheran in Vinton to conclude its ministry as a worshipping community Grace.Period just seemed destined to connect with a feeding ministry in Vinton.

As people are fed, as grace is shared, please pray for God's Spirit to move as St. Philip loves, feeds, and serves and as we collaborate with and live God's mission with our siblings through Grace.Period.

The next Grace.Period free food distribution is planned for October 3.

COUNCIL NEWS—September 2026

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Church Council met on Tuesday September 8 in person and via Zoom.

We welcome Kimberly as Office Administrator and her first month has been fantastic. She has helped organize the office and added some helpful ideas. Pastor David meets with her and Donita on developing a digital ministry plan. Thank you to Matt Peters for helping purchase and install new office equipment and to Kimberly for providing a new office arrangement.

Pastor David continues to reach out to members in multiple ways, including hospital and home visits, calls and emails, texts and cards. He has met with multiple potential new members.

The property next door to the church was sold in August and development plans are uncertain at this point. We will communicate more as we find out.

Melrose Towers Day of Service was a special event and we appreciate all of the help to make that happen.

Treasurer's Report Max Holland: August offerings were \$13,728/August expenses were \$18,604

As the monthly offering was lower than expenses we utilized Davenport investments for \$5000 to help offset the difference. Our investment accounts were up this month.

ROANOKE VALLEY LUTHERAN YOUTH—

CROP WALK

The Roanoke Valley Lutheran Youth are excited to be participating in the Roanoke Valley Crop Walk happening October 11th. What a great way to Love, Feed, and Serve.

The CROP Hunger Walk began in 1969 and was one of the first charity walks. One of the mottoes, “We walk because they walk” recognizes that many people have to walk daily to have access to clean water and nourishing food. CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs. Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone. We have been walking in the Roanoke Valley since 1983.

GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in any way in this year’s Roanoke Youth Golf Tournament. We enjoyed one of the largest groups of golfers ever with 40 golfers heading out to the course on a magnificent Saturday. This event is the primary fundraiser for youth ministry for Lutherans in the Roanoke Valley and enables youth retreats, events, and activities to happen without using regular church offerings. The tournament this year raised over \$4000! Youth need safe spaces to live and grow - youth ministry is one of those spaces. Again, thank you to sponsors, volunteers, golfers, and most especially to the God of abundance for a great day of experiencing grace upon grace.

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Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27 at 6:00 p.m.

An opportunity to explore loss and grief together from perspectives of science and faith, and to share, add to, or begin building your toolkit for managing loss and grief.

Hosted by Ministry Associate, Donita Moore





BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

As a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's life and works, St. Philip will host a blessing of the animals service near his feast day. This special worship service will be held on Sunday, October 4 at 2pm near the fenced area north of the church. If you have a special animal – great or small – and you wish to be blessed, please bring that animal or a picture of that animal to St. Philip on October 4 for this opportunity. If you know a fellow animal lover who might be interested in this service, invite them to come with you!

OCTOBER BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. PHILIP

Monday, October 5, 12 noon - 6:00 p.m.

Sign ups are open online now.

- You are encouraged to go in and sign up at redcrossblood.org to make sure you get your preferred appt time.
- Once you're on the red cross site, look for zip code 24019, or contact Debbie Kanode at 540-589-6865 if you have questions.
- Pass along information about the drive so we can have as many donors as possible, there is a critical need!

DONOR PROMO:

Fall into the habit of donating! Get a \$15 e-gift card when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 18.

YOU can MAKE a DIFFERENCE!

LINK TO SIGN UP:

Please sign up now to be a part of our lifesaving blood drive event...

[Sign Up Here](#)

PATIENT VIDEOS:

Link below is a short video clip showing that children are often the recipients of blood products. It makes a profound difference in their quality of life!

[Patient Video](#)

[Sickle Cell Video clip of recipient:](#)

[Sickle Cell Recipient](#)

Empowering People. Inspiring Donors. Saving Lives.



ARE YOU? . . .

- Receiving Announcements
- Receiving Phone Messages
- Receiving Mailings

If you are not receiving any of the above, please let Kimberly in the Church Office know so she can update your information in the Church Directory (Breeze).



WITNESSING p WS

Pet Therapy Team Evaluation Event

St. Philip hosted another Pet Therapy Team Evaluation event on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

All six of the teams passed their evaluations and are planning to volunteer in our community!

Many thanks to our volunteers who helped support this event:

Robin Burke, Ruth Heinzelmann, Dedi, Spradlin, Karen Black, Paul Henegar, Mark Nelson, and Nina Templeton with her neutral dog, Summer.

Following are photos of the teams with their quotes as to why they like to do Pet Therapy with their companions.



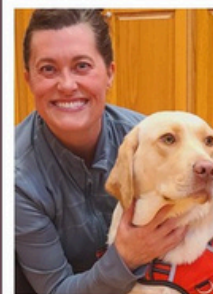
Nina with Summer

Nina's quote:
Pet Therapy gives me a chance for my dogs and me to give back to the community after having a great life (I'm 76).



Dedi with Indy

Dedi's quote:
Pet Therapy gives me a chance to share the peace that animals can give humans.



Leigh with Daisy

Leigh's quote:
Providing loving kindness to those who may need it.



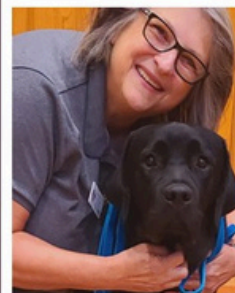
Cami with Brody

Cami's quote:
To promote the comfort and support animals can offer to others.



Zara with Finnegan

Zara's quote:
Pet Therapy is to share the love and comfort of our cat Finnegan.



Sybille with Guinness

Sybille's quote:
Pet Therapy is a way for animals to share their agape love one paw at a time!

Potluck Brunch on October 11th

On October 11th, Cafe will be a potluck brunch. You are invited to bring your favorite breakfast or lunch dishes to share. If you have any questions, please contact

Nancy Shadix or Linda Duncan Rhodes.

Luther's Rose

On October 25, Lutherans all over the world remember the legacy of Martin Luther with Reformation Day. Although I have been in Lutheran families of faith for most of my adult life, I recently realized that there's a lot I don't know about Martin Luther and his life. For example, when I came to St Philip in October 2025, there was a pillow in my office with a design that I didn't recognize as the seal of Martin Luther, or the Luther Rose. With a little internet research, I discovered that Luther designed this so that each part of the design holds significance for the Christian faith.



The black cross in the center represents Christ's death on the cross, and the red heart surrounding the cross symbolizes his life giving resurrection, and ours. The white flower/rose represents peace in knowing that we are all kept alive in Christ's love. The blue background symbolizes our joy in the hope of heaven made possible by Christ's loving sacrifice, and the encompassing gold circle completes the design by reminding us that the most precious gift of Christ's sacrifice is that we have the promise of eternity in heaven.

Jesus, through his death and resurrection, gives us life. Therefore, we have peace in knowing the joy and hope of heaven forever.

Although Luther did not specifically mention the green leaves under the rose, some have suggested that the green of the leaves represents growth of our faith through time.

In Ephesians 3:14-15, we read, "Then we will no longer be infants, ...Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday this month, perhaps Luther's Rose can remind us all of our promise and purpose as we grow in our faith every day.

Donita Moore
Ministry Associate for Worship and Engagement

New Neighbors Coming Next Door to St. Philip

The property directly southwest and next door to St. Philip has indeed been purchased by Lawson Real Estate Development Company. The property is slated to be developed with the construction of multiple apartment buildings and groundbreaking is expected to happen sometime in late October or early November. Lawson plans to construct 2 apartment buildings in stage one of development and six months later an additional 2 apartment buildings.

Of course, significant development no matter the direct impacts creates change. Ultimately, there seems to be two primary considerations: First, to live out our mission to Love, Feed, and Serve as we literally expect a significant number of new neighbors next door to our facility. Second, for St. Philip to continue to do what we are doing by meeting with all parties involved in the development project and advocate for the best interests of St. Philip.

Lastly, as construction and development begins please be careful when entering and exiting the property at St. Philip with the increased activity.

If you have questions or comments please direct them to Pastor David.

St. Philip's Web Presence

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We are at the following links . . .



officeadmin@stphililutheran.net

BE SURE TO CHECK THE ST. PHILIP'S FACEBOOK PAGE.
WE ARE POSTING NEW AND EXCITING THINGS ALMOST DAILY.
SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.
LET US CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH WITH OTHERS
AS WE CELEBRATE WITH ONE ANOTHER!



www.facebook.com/stphililutheran



www.stphililutheran.net



@stphiliproanoke

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ROANOKE, VA 24019

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DAVID C. DERRICK, PASTOR (PASTORDAVID@STPHILIPLUTHERAN.NET)
KIMBERLY A. GARRIOTT, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR (OFFICEADMIN@STPHILIPLUTHERAN.NET)
DONITA MOORE, MINISTRY ASSOCIATE FOR WORSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT (WORSHIP@STPHILIPLUTHERAN.NET)

CHURCH COUNCIL
ELLEN MEHALIC, COUNCIL PRESIDENT; BRENT FERGUSON, COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT;
MAX HOLLAND TREASURER; DAVE MELLON, FINANCIAL SECRETARY; KAREN LOWDON, COUNCIL SECRETARY;
MEMBERS: MARY JO SAHM, JESSICA MONROE,
DEDI SPRADLIN, MARIBETH SCHERMER, PAM PETERS

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

