

The Epistle

St. Philip Lutheran Church
September, 2017



Pastor's Message

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ! It's been a busy summer for all of us. There have been road trips to places near and far, vacations and family reunions. There have been trips to the beach, to the mountains, and even some staycations. Because many of our activities happen on the weekends they can keep us away from worship and the congregation for a while. That's okay! While I miss seeing everyone on Sunday mornings, I understand the need for family time and new experiences and I sincerely hope that you and your family have had a wonderful summer!

Now that September is upon us we are eager to see everyone: to renew friendships and to make new friends; to get back into our routines and to establish new ones. As we begin this new program year (September – May), plans are being made to help us grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and strengthen our relationships with one another. Many activities will be gearing up during the month of September so pay close attention to those that interest you. Be sure to mark your calendar so that you don't miss anything!

My friends, I need to make you aware of something that is concerning me. The reality is that we are

experiencing a decline in the number of people using their gifts and skills in the life of the congregation. This is having a negative impact on how we live out God's call to be church in our area. The bottom line is that the congregation needs you! We need you to use the gifts that God has given to you as you more fully participate in God's mission of reconciling the world.

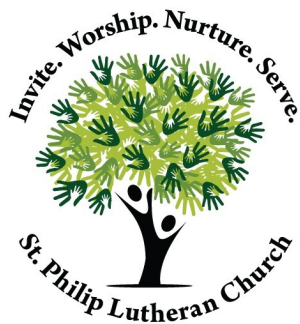
There are so many ways that you can participate! Some of these ways are something that you can do while you are at church on a Sunday morning. Others might involve you arriving a little early or staying a little later. Some are activities that support our Wednesday night programming called GROW (Get Renewed on Wednesdays). Some are ways that you can participate in the other ministries of St. Philip. Some are things that you can do on your own and others are best accomplished in a group. Some are one-time activities and others involve a regular commitment. Some are activities where you can be a participant and others are ways for you to exercise your leadership.

Today I challenge you to identify one new way to participate in the life and ministry of St. Philip. Look for something that uses your skills, that excites you, for it is these areas that we are best able to persevere in the task. A list of these opportunities is included in this newsletter along with contact information for the leaders or organizers of each ministry. Please be in touch with them if you'd like to explore a specific area of ministry.

Thank you for the many ways that you support our life together. I look forward to seeing how God continues to work in and through you!

To God be the Glory,

Pastor Pam

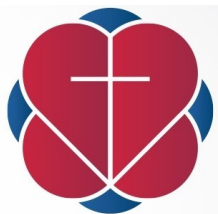


Invite

Vicar's Message

Sometimes my pre-pastor friends and I talk about what it means to have given our lives over to the movement of the Holy Spirit. There is a lot of talk about wind, and power, and surprise, and delight coming out of chaos. I believe that I experienced a major encounter with the Holy Spirit in my first morning of worship at St. Philip on August 13. It was a delight to meet so many people who were excited and happy to greet Lisa and me and who offered so much grace and welcome to both of us. The outpouring of generosity in the form of gift cards was surprising and humbling. It was an honor to be installed as your vicar. The tears I shed in the early service came from a deep place of understanding that this life of service and following God's direction is not to be taken lightly. Thank you for the welcome, your support, your generosity, and your love.

Thank you, in other words, for offering us so many good gifts of the Holy Spirit. It has been nearly four months of anticipation since I first learned I would be coming to St. Philip and during that time I think I felt every emotion you can imagine. Would it be a good fit? Would we like each other? More important, would we love each other? Would they be as eager to meet me as I am to meet them? As that waiting finally came to an end all of my fears were allayed and my excitement confirmed. I cannot say it enough – thank you for welcoming Lisa and me into your community. Since I am only on my second day I do not have many concrete activities to report, but please know I look forward to learning to know each of you far beyond your names (although I guess names are a great place to start!) and to a tremendous year of learning, love, and encountering the Holy Spirit here at St. Philip Lutheran.



By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism

As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Faith and Fellowship Sunday School class will be going deeper in a study of the Small Catechism. Many adults studied and were even required to learn it "by heart" during their adolescent years as part of their confirmation. Some of us have come to the Lutheran tradition by a different path and may have had little exposure to Luther and his Small Catechism.

Using scripture and tradition, Luther's explanations, and the "backstory" of Luther's own life and times, we will visit or revisit the basic elements of the catechism: the 10 Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

We'll be using a wonderful book called "by Heart" which will provide a starting place for productive, meaningful, and useful conversations. The book serves as a comprehensive treatment of Luther's Small Catechism as a historical and confessional document. Copies of this book will be available for purchase at the first class on Sept. 17 for \$11. Please make checks payable to St. Philip and note "by heart" on the memo line.

The Faith and Fellowship class meets in Luther Hall beginning at 10:10 on Sunday mornings. Pastor Pam and Vicar Sharon will be co-facilitating this class.

You're invited

to a Service in Commemoration of the
500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1000 E. Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC.

A Sacred Concert featuring choirs from both
Newberry College and Lenoir-Rhyne University
will begin at 1:30 p.m. The service will begin at
2:00p.m. with a Processional of Ecumenical
Guests and Rostered Ministers. ELCA Presiding
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preach.



Rostered ministers of both the North and South
Carolina Synods are invited to vest and process;
the color of the day is red.

Special music will be provided by the Lenoir-
Rhyne University A Cappella Choir, Newberry
College Singers, Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus,
Instrumentalists, and a Massed Choir of
members from congregations in both Carolinas.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center and
indicate your willingness to drive or your desire
to carpool.

If you are unable to come to the service in
person, come and worship with Lutherans from
both Carolinas through the live stream, go
to: <http://media.covenantpresby.org/>.

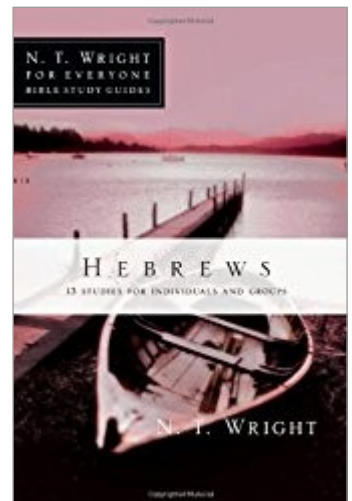
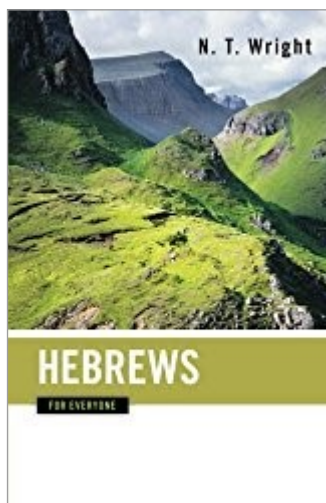
Get Ready to Study Hebrews

Beginning on Monday, Sept. 11, there will be two
opportunities to study the letter to the Hebrews.
This 13-week study will wrap up on December 11.
Groups will meet at 10:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. in
the Music Room to study this somewhat
challenging, yet important, book of the Bible.

N. T. Wright, one of the world's leading Bible
scholars, provides this overview: "For many
Jewish Christians of the first century, living in the
light of the gospel was challenging. Having
accepted Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, they
were regarded by still-skeptical family, friends,
and neighbors as dangerous, misguide and even
disloyal to all that God had said earlier. The letter
to the Hebrews was written to show that you
can't go back to an earlier stage of God's purposes
but must press on eagerly to the one that is yet to
come. In these studies, we find encouragement
and assurance that pressing on, even in the face of
such close and constant pressure to fall back, is its
own reward."

You'll need two books for this study, *Hebrews for
Everyone* and *Hebrews: 13 studies for Individuals
and Groups*. Both can be purchased from
Amazon.com as paperbacks and kindle books. You
may also pick up a copy of both books at the
church for a total of \$20.25.

Please [click here](#) to sign up for the study or call
Jane in the office.





Worship

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

As I write this article, I am aware that while I have now been at worship for seven Sundays, there are so many of you that I do not know! Please keep introducing (or RE-introducing yourself) and I'll slowly, but surely begin to know you as a congregation and let you know me as more than just the organist/pianist/singer.

Of course, as we begin our programming for the fall, there will be wonderful opportunities for you to become involved in the music program at St. Philip. By the time you read this, our adult choir, Voices of Praise, will have already had a potluck to talk about some special upcoming music.

I am pleased to be friends with Scott Laird, the orchestra director of the NC School of Science and Math and for the past 12 years, he has brought a group of his students to accompany special programs during Advent. We will continue that tradition here and Voices of Praise will perform some type of cantata (right now, we're considering the Vivaldi *Gloria*) for the December 10 worship service. I look forward to resuming rehearsals on Wednesday evening, September 13 at 7:30. If you have ever wanted to sing in a choir, this will be a great chance to "start fresh" as we begin to learn weekly anthems and special Advent music.

Also on September 13, our children's choir, Joyful Noise, will begin rehearsals at 6:30 immediately following church supper. All kindergarten and elementary school children are invited to come study the basics of music and it's place in worship.

In the weeks to come I will meet with Cathryn Hewett to see if there is interest in a separate youth choir for middle and high school students.

As a former high school teacher I know and appreciate the time demands that are made on kids, particularly as they enter high school, but I hope to find a time for rehearsal that will accommodate as many student schedules as possible. My dream would be that we could regularly learn the Contemporary Praise music that is sung in the Crossing service, and possibly form a Youth Praise Band.

If you claim to be tone deaf when it comes to singing, you probably aren't, but if I can't convince you otherwise, there are still musical opportunities for non-singers at St. Philip. If you were at worship on August 13, you heard an inter-generational "orchestra" from my former church featuring instrumentalists whose ages ranged from middle school to retiree. There is a wealth of music that will accommodate groups of most any instrumentation. We will gather at 3:30 on Sunday, September 10 to see if we can create our own orchestra at St. Philip. Dust off those instruments, or band kids, you have another reason to bring your instruments home on the weekend. Also on Sunday, September 10, we will resume bell practice at 5:00 for those interested in ringing handbells. Marilyn Capel has graciously been filling in as a director and she wants to concentrate on playing, so I will be a novice handbell director. Come check it out and let's learn together!

In addition to being fun, music is such a vital part of worshipping our Creator.

Come meet me, reintroduce yourself, and let's begin having fun and making music together!

~ Jeff Whicker
Director of Music Ministry





Nurture

Stephen Ministry Training

Stephen Ministry Training Class begins on
Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 4:00—6:00 p.m.



Ever Thought about Becoming a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministry is a lay care giving ministry.

This ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-to-one caring and confidential relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them. Training to serve as a Stephen Minister is a wonderful opportunity for you to grow in faith, develop stronger relational skills, and bring Christ's love into the lives of hurting people.

As you prayerfully consider your participation in this ministry, it is important for you to know that: Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastor to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness.

If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry.

"The Stephen Ministry program is a wonderful addition to our congregational life. As a trained minister this past year, I have enjoyed and experienced a wonderfully trusting relationship with my fellow ministers. We have gone through the 50 hours of training and have covered many topics. We have come to know each other on a deeper level which provides for each of us the love and support that we need as we care for members of our congregation. I have a wonderful relationship with my care receiver as I walk with her during her time of need. I truly feel that I am the one who receives more than I give. Our time together in Christian love is a time I look forward to each week. I am blessed to be able to serve in this ministry." Kathy Cunningham Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministry Training Class begins on Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 4:00—6:00 p.m.
Application packets can be picked up at the Welcome Center.
Deadline for registration is 9/17/17

Frequently Asked Questions about Stephen Ministry

Question: How much time will serving as a Stephen Minister involve?
Answer: After the initial training, the time commitment as a Stephen Minister includes one visit (approximately one hour) per week with the person receiving care from you. Also after the initial training, Stephen Ministers are expected to attend two meetings per month for supervision, support and ongoing continuing education.

Question: What is the cost of becoming a Stephen Minister?
Answer: The total cost for training each Stephen Minister is \$50.
This includes two training workbooks, 3 books, and other associated costs.



To learn more about Stephen Ministry, speak to one of our Stephen Leaders:

Pastor Pam

pastorpam@st-philip.org

Kathy Blum at 919-641-2742

kathyblum821@gmail.com

Linda Bossert at 703-216-5046

lbossert52@verizon.net



Sunday School for All Ages

10:10–10:50 am beginning on September 17th

2 year olds-5th Grade Sunday School - Our 2's through 5th grade kids are offered a Sunday school time that includes stories, crafts, and games. This fall we will be using a new curriculum called *An Illustrated Compassion: Learning to Love Like God*. The kids are grouped each Sunday according to who is there in order to make the best use of teaching/playing time. Parents are always welcome in the classroom. This group meets in the classrooms in the education building.

Middle School Sunday School - Our 6th-8th graders will be enjoying a discussion based class where those discussions are triggered by games, crafts, videos, and so on. Our goal with this class is to help the MS youth to connect faith to their every day lives. The MS youth meet in the lower level of the education building.

High School Sunday School - Our 9th-12th grade youth will be using the *Getting Ready* materials provided by the 2018 Youth National Gathering. These materials will help to prepare us for our trip to Houston in 2018. The curriculum is written to benefit those not attending the 2018 gathering as well. This group meets in the HS classroom in the lower level of the education building.

Augsburg Sunday School - This adult class uses the quarterly Augsburg Bible Study guide to study a wide range of biblical books and themes. Writers with established reputations in biblical scholarship provide thorough, in-depth Bible studies. This fall the theme is *Covenants with God* exploring scripture passages from Genesis, Exodus, Numbers 1, 2 Samuel, Nehemiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, 1 Corinthians and Hebrews to guide the discussions. This class meets in the Library.

Faith & Fellowship Sunday School - Pastor Pam, and Vicar Sharon will be teaching this adult class an in-depth study this fall utilizing *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*. Like the Small Catechism itself, this course aims to create faith. It is for adults who have never encountered the Small Catechism, and is for adults who studied and memorized it as adolescents, and for those who assume that the original document requires no further explication other than to pick it up and start reading. For everyone we hope the Spirit will use this course to ignite—and reignite—in them the irrepressible spark that Luther's poetic and resonant words uniquely do still today. This class meets in Luther Hall.

Growing in Faith Together – GIFT (*formerly known as Confirmation*)

As of last year we renamed our confirmation program **Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)**. We have moved the time and type of our meetings to include 5 workshops throughout the traditional school year. These workshops are provided for our 6th-7th grade youth AND their parents.

Our goals for the GIFT program are as follows:

- To grow in relationship in our faith community within each class and within the congregation.
- To know what grace is. (We often cannot understand and feel grace until we are in later years in high school. However, it helps if our youth know what grace is and can recognize grace in their daily lives).
- To know and understand (sort of) our sacraments in as much as that God is in control!

In lieu of individual projects, we have moved to class projects that were designed this summer at Campfirmation. The kids were asked 3 questions that Kid President says will change the world:

What am I not okay with? What do I have? What am I going to do about it?

(You can check out the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsbG-172e_Y)

After talking about these questions, the youth designed what will be their class project. Last year this project was to educate and raise money for clean water. Hopefully some of you experienced this project in action during a SS hour last fall. This year's project will be announced soon!

This year's 6th and 7th grade GIFT youth include: Brennan and Aariah Davis, Avery Grantham, Ethan Ridenhour, Kelsey Weinzapfel, Matthew Mahl, Harrison Mehr, and Kaden Shroeder. Please keep them in your prayers as they *Grow In Faith Together*!

2018 ELCA Youth National Gathering in Houston

The mission of the ELCA Youth Gathering is to create an amazing faith formation opportunity for high school age youth (finished 9th grade through just graduated).

The 2018 Gathering theme is *This Changes Everything* which is based on Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

The 2018 Gathering will have five program areas :

- ◇ Synod Day - a day of Bible study, worship and fellowship within the ELCA's geographical groupings
- ◇ Service Learning - a day of learning the stories of Houston, service projects and advocacy
- ◇ Interactive Learning - a day of hands on experiences related to theology, service, justice seeking, prayer, the arts and fellowship
- ◇ Community Life - daily opportunities for worship, fellowship, music and recharging
- ◇ Mass Gathering - daily gatherings of the whole community featuring inspiring speakers, engaging Christian musicians and worship.



To learn more, check out <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/about/overview>.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Q&A - Sunday, Sept. 10th, at 9:00 in the music room.

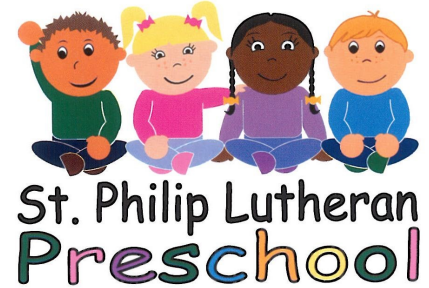
St. Philip Lutheran Preschool News

St. Philip Lutheran Preschool will be starting the new school year this month. The voices and giggles and even a few tears will be heard in the halls and classrooms of the education building once again.

Our Parent Orientation will be on Wednesday evening, August 30 and our Student Orientation will be Thursday morning, August 31. Classes will begin on September 5. This month we will be getting to know one another while children are learning to adjust to school routines.

We still have some openings in some of our classes. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Leigh Anne Barham 919-818-9585 or Susan Hoyer 919-801-8692 for more information.

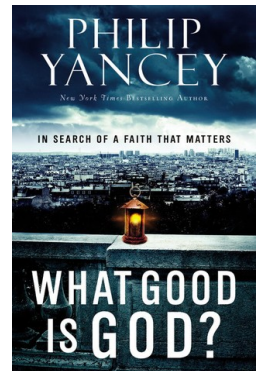
Please visit <http://st-philip.org/preschool> for more information about the program and for the registration form.



Senior Ministry Book Club

On Tuesday, September 26, the book club will meet in the Parlor from 10:00-11:30am to discuss *What Good is God* by Philip Yancey

Journalist and spiritual seeker Philip Yancey has always struggled with the most basic questions of the Christian faith. The question he tackles in *WHAT GOOD IS GOD?* concerns the practical value of belief in God. His search for the answer to this question took him to some amazing settings around the world. The book is available in the Wake County Public Library. Everyone is welcome to join in on the conversation on Tuesday, September 26th at 10:00 am



We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month and we rotate leading the discussion.

If you are interested, please bring a book suggestion to our next meeting.

Contact Kathryn Edwards itsmekge@gmail.com or Carol Williamson wilc321@aol.com for information.

Saints & Sinners

Come join the Saints and Sinners at 11:30 on Tuesday, September 12th. We hope you will make plans to attend as there will be good food, good fellowship and Vicar Sharon Schulze will be our program speaker.

Please RSVP to reserve your place for lunch by calling Carole Mason at 919 872-1518, by September 9th. Lunch is \$7.00

The Saints and Sinners meet on the second Tuesday of the month in Luther Hall.



Women's Fellowship Group

We will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 25th at Jason's Deli, 909 Spring Forest Rd at Falls of Neuse Rd.

We gather together once a month inviting women of the congregation to come for good food, fellowship & conversation. Contact Carol Rogers for more information at parakayaker@gmail.com



Ladies Lunch

The next lunch will be at 12:00 on Thursday, September 7th at Olive Garden, All women are invited to share in fellowship and tasty food! Please RSVP to Claire Muller, 919-900-8443 claire6078@att.net Hope to see you there!



Men's Breakfast Club

Will meet on September 19th 9:30 am at **Metro Diner** at Sutton Square, Falls of Neuse Rd.. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship. To reserve your place contact Frank Bouknight @ 919-302-1812 or bouknightf@yahoo.com



Puzzle Get-together

Tuesday, September 25th at 12:30
Come, relax, and have fun completing a puzzle.
Questions? Contact Claire Muller at 919-900-8443 or claire6078@att.net
Hope to see you there!

Men's Pub Ministry

Watch for details about our next get together on Tuesday, September 25th

Men's Pub Ministry is an opportunity for men in the congregation to meet and socialize once a month. We select places where we can talk and have a beer or other beverage and, perhaps, a meal.

All men are welcome, hope to see you there!



Financial Peace University

Meeting on Sundays at 7:00 pm, October 8th – December 3rd, 2017

"Financial Peace isn't just for those that want to get out of debt, it's for those that want to learn how to budget and take control of your money. As Dave says, "tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went."

- Want to strengthen your relationship and money issues with your spouse? Financial Peace can help.
- Not married? Get Financial Peace before taking on a partner.
- Want to improve your charitable donations, but don't know how to squeeze more out of the budget? Financial Peace can help.
 - Watch this video promo to learn more: <https://youtu.be/EPvk1ANcQ3U>
 - Chuck and Cindy Wolfe will facilitate the classes of the nine week program
 - Sign up for the class starting October 8, 2017 here: <https://fpu.com/1048509>



SERVE

Leading worship in the 11:00 service requires teamwork and coordination.

All new and experienced worship leaders are invited to discuss the details of worship leadership with Pastor Pam on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017 in the sanctuary.

Quilters

The Lutheran World Relief Quilters are looking for willing hands who can use scissors, tie a knot and who enjoy a warm blanket to help us every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level under Luther Hall.

Please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile endeavor.

Questions: contact Barbara Burdette at bburd45955@aol.com



FamiliesTogether

Your help is needed to provide WELCOME BASKET supplies for each new family that we help move into an apartment. Any items you are able to donate on the shopping list below will make a tremendous difference. For more information, please contact Sandy Glass 845-325-6132.

Items Needed:

Bar soap 4oz
Liquid hand soap
Deodorant 2.6 oz
Hand lotion 16oz
Hand sanitizer 8oz
Toothpaste 8oz
Toothbrushes
Toilet Paper
Paper towels
Spray cleaner
Dish soap
Dish towels
Laundry detergent
Brooms
Dustpan
Spray disinfectant
Small bottles of bleach
Razors
Laundry baskets

Additional needs:

Wash cloths
Bath towels
Bath mats
Diapers
Pull-up training pants
Wipes
Feminine hygiene
Shower curtains
Twin size air mattresses
Beddings
Pillows
Flashlights/batteries
Gift cards



**FAMILIES
TOGETHER**
a PLM organization

The Pony Express is coming!

The Stewardship Campaign will be kicking off October 1, 2017.

The original Pony Express riders of 1860 overcame hardships and obstacles to spread the news and complete their run. We will call on the St. Philip Lutheran Church congregation to follow their example in handling the bags and spreading the news.

There will be 18 Trail Bosses who will manage up to 10 stops on our stewardship routes, carrying saddlebags containing congregational giving literature and Estimate of Giving cards for 2018. We ask that you simply complete the card, place it in a sealed envelope, return it to the saddlebag, and pass the bag along to the next Pony Express stop on your route. Trail Bosses on each route will assist in relaying the bag or answering questions. We hope to complete all routes within two weeks, then worship together on October 15th with one Dedication Sunday Service followed by a chuck wagon luncheon to celebrate the success of the campaign.



What can you do to prepare for this important assignment?

Between now and the time you receive the saddlebag, reflect on the gratitude you feel toward God for His goodness to you. Become aware of the resources he has entrusted to you, whether monetary, time or talents. You might prayerfully ask: "Lord, what would you have me do to become the Christian steward you want me to be?" Let His answer guide your hand as you complete the Estimate of Giving card. Remember that this is an estimate only, but still an important resource for the Finance Committee to use in preparing the 2018 budget.

Please do your part so that we can have a successful Pony Express experience. Have fun and we will see you on the trail.

Joe Edwards
General Manager, Pony Express 2017

Leadership School for Mission and Renewal

The Leadership School is a new initiative of the NC Synod designed to provide leadership development opportunities for both lay and clergy in the synod. The school consists of four courses offered over a two-year period. Participants may take all four courses or may choose the courses that are of interest to them.

The fall 2017 course is Leading in Faith: *Understanding and Using our Leadership Gifts:*

How do we lead effectively in a church? What is your particular leadership style? What can we learn from biblical examples of leadership? This course can be a game-changer for students as they focus on leading communities through change, building teams that work, managing conflict, and moving ideas from whiteboard into action.

This course is being taught live at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte. It will also be live-streamed to 14 sites around the synod. There are two sites close to us: one is at Christ the King in Cary and the other is in a private home somewhere in Raleigh. You'll get specific details about the site after you register for the course.

The class will meet each Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm from September 21 – November 16, 2017. Cost for the class is \$75 per student. Scholarships available. You can select your site and register for the class at: <https://nclutheran.org/leaders/leadership-school/#register>



Brown Bag Ministry

- ♦ BBM meets every month on the 2nd & 4th Saturday morning at 10:00 in Luther Hall.
- ♦ This is a great opportunity to serve for the whole family! Summer is a tough time in general for the Food Bank, where we get a bulk of our food, so as you are doing your weekly shopping, please keep Brown Bag Ministry in mind.
- ♦ We need your hands to help make and distribute the lunches.
- ♦ Questions? Email Stacey Bell at raleighbells@yahoo.com



Brown Bag Ministry

Abundance Ministry



We meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday between 11:30 and 1:30 in Luther Hall to organize donations and host families who have a need.

If you are interested in being part of Abundance Ministry in any way, from helping on Tuesdays to donations, please contact Stacey Bell at raleighbells@gmail.com.



Join us for

G.R.O.W

(Get Renewed On Wednesday)

Beginning again on September 13th at 5:45

For a midweek renewal through
a meal, music, youth groups, small groups and fellowship!!
Free will donations are encouraged.

Bring your friends! All are Welcome!!

5:45-6:30	Meal (Luther Hall)
6:30	Youth Worship with Jeff
6:45-8:00	MS & HS Youth Groups
6:45-7:15	Joyful Noise Kidz Choir
7:30-8:45	Voices of Praise Adult Choir

September is Financial Education Month at St. Philip

Your Finance Committee has been working diligently throughout this year to make sure St. Philip is fiscally sound and adhering to our 2017 annual budget. We accomplish this mission by analyzing our income and expenditures on a monthly basis, monitoring each line item in the budget, performing trend analysis by comparing our income year over year, preparing the annual budget, auditing the church, preschool, columbarium committee and boy scout troop, and reporting to the church council on any issues we feel need to be addressed.

We are blessed at St. Philip by our congregation's generosity and commitment to our missions and priorities. With this in mind, and with the summer coming to an end allowing us to get back into a normal rhythm, the Finance Committee is making September *Financial Education Month*.

We would like to bring to everyone's attention three key areas of financial responsibility and opportunity in advance of our dynamic and exciting "Pony Express" Stewardship Campaign that will kick off the first week in October. Our three areas of education are:

- 1) Acknowledging and catching up on our pledge commitment from a summer filled with vacations and busy schedules,
- 2) The advantages and ease of electronic giving to the church, and
- 3) Securities giving opportunities available to our congregation.

We hope this will be helpful as you consider your commitment to St. Philip with ways that make giving more convenient and advantageous to your tax exposure. As always, thank you for your commitment and generosity. Let us continue to support our mission, "Rejoicing in God's grace, our mission is to invite, worship, nurture and serve."

~ Finance Committee



**God's work.
Our hands.**

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 10th

We will begin the day of joyful serving with one worship service at 10:00. Following worship we will gather in Luther Hall to have lunch and complete a simple craft to take to Elmcroft at 1:00—enjoying a hymn sing that brings joy to all!

Contact Michelle Hooks with questions at michellehooks3@gmail.com.

Milestone Blessings in September

On September 10th we will celebrate our students & teachers with a *Backpack Blessing*, *Bible Blessing* and the *Blessing of Teachers*. On September 24th at both services, we will have the *Blessing of Newly Permitted & Licensed Drivers & their Parents*.



Catching Up

Greetings from the Finance Committee! We hope your summer has been safe, fun and rewarding. Hard to believe September is here and the vacation season has drawn to a close, but it is a good time to catch up with friends, household chores....and goings-on at your church.

This is also a good time for us to catch you up on finances at St. Philip. As is often the case this time of year, we find ourselves behind on our income (giving). Through July, our income was \$58,862 behind budget. While, as mentioned above, we are typically behind at the end of summer, last year this time we were down \$31,000 by comparison. On a positive note, our income year to date of \$281,084 is actually higher than it was last year through June (\$276,490). As you will recall, we have a larger budget this year. In addition, our spending year to date is also behind plan by \$35,571 and that certainly helps.

We're giving this information not to alarm you, but to make you aware and so that we can work together to take action now. We are confident that, with God's help, our congregation can come together to make our budgeted income by year end. Late last year, we found ourselves in a position where we were on track to have a \$60,000 deficit at year end, yet through your generosity and God's Grace, we met our plan! Praise God!

So, it's time to catch up. First, we'd ask you to review what you have given so far this year and compare it to your Estimate of Giving (EOG). If you are behind, please consider catching up on giving over the next few months. At a recent Finance Committee meeting, Janis Lawrence, Financial Secretary, reported that of the 114 families that had turned in EOGs for 2017, 36 were behind in giving through June 30th, 29 were ahead and the remainder were on track. So, catching up on your contributions would make a very positive impact on our financial situation. In addition, we ask all members to prayerfully consider how you have been blessed and whether you may be led to do more to help our church catch up on our income. Your generous giving is how our ministries at St. Philip are carried out.

Thank you for all you have done for our ministries at Philip, not just through your financial gifts, but also for your gifts of time and talents. Without you, we could not carry on. Thanks also for allowing us to catch you up, and thank you in advance for your help in catching us up on our budget!

Yours in Christ,
Jim Beck, Finance Chair

				July 2017 Financial Summary		
				Giving		
The Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$584,582					Actual	Plan
				July 2017	\$37,832	\$47,763
				Year to Date	\$281,084	\$339,946
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$35,961	\$37,952	95%	\$260,110	\$265,665	98%
Other Income	\$1,871	\$9,811	19%	\$20,974	\$74,281	28%
Total Income	\$37,832	\$47,763	79%	\$281,084	\$339,946	83%
Expenses	\$48,888	\$48,531	101%	\$304,146	\$339,717	90%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$(11,057)	\$(768)		\$(23,062)	\$229	

eGiving

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Did you know that St. Philip's online giving, as a percentage of total giving, over the past few years has grown from 10% to 25% and the number of families participating to about 22%?

Thanks be to God and to our congregation for recognizing the many benefits of online giving! Can we bring these numbers even higher in 2018? Perhaps we can strive toward 30% of the total for online giving and to 25% of families participating? For the continued joy of God's ministry here at St. Philip, let's challenge ourselves to do so!

In 2014, I wrote the following (now updated) open letter to the congregation to help others understand aspects of electronic giving that our own family has experienced:

I'd like to ask you to review a few questions that are entirely for your personal reflection and consideration. I ask only that you read and contemplate these questions in thoughtful prayer.

Do you buy products or services online (i.e. Amazon.com)?

Do you presently or have you had a 401(K) or similar retirement plan where you made contributions that were electronically transferred into investments?

Do you bank, online (i.e. make deposits, pay bills, transfer funds between accounts)?

Do you have electronic deposits such as paychecks or social security made, directly, into a bank account?

Do you file your taxes, electronically?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, I'd like to ask one more;

Do you contribute regularly, to St. Philip, electronically?

If you answered yes to electronic transactions but no to St. Philip, I'd ask you to consider the prospect of regular, online giving. First, a personal story and, then, the "why".

Years ago, my family put checks in pink (now green) envelopes to thank God for all of the gifts he has bestowed on my family and did this for the benefit of continued ministry at St. Philip. We're fortunate that we've been able to keep our annual commitments but the continuity of our giving wasn't always consistent. If we were gone during the summer, missed worship, etc. we would play "catch up" later on.

We decided to do things differently a few years ago and now give almost 100% of our contributions, electronically.

At first, this was awkward. We weren't putting anything in the offering plate but this feeling has changed as we now have green electronic giving cards that we can place in the offering plate. Further, we grew to realize that our contribution was between God and us and he knew that, with his help, we were making regular contributions! Moreover, we came to recognize the following benefits to our family and the church.

Our contributions were of the same weekly amount and equaled the total annual offering we had pledged divided by 52 weeks. We no longer played "catch up".

Our contributions have more of a "commitment" versus "discretionary" feel to them than when we wrote checks. This is akin to the feeling of putting salary in a 401(k) plan.

We are able to make contributions, quickly.

12/30/2014, I realized I hadn't made a staff gift contribution and I wanted the gift to be on our 2014 tax return. Rather than driving 30 minutes round trip to the church to bring a physical check that may or may not be cashed by 12/31/2014, I went online and completed the transaction in less than 5 minutes.

We buy fewer checks! This is good for both our pocketbooks and green for our environment.

St. Philip benefits from a consistent, periodic, cash flow irrespective of our physical presence at the church.

Because St. Philip has consistent cash flow, it can better plan budgets and, therefore, its ministry.

St. Philip no longer has to pay for Alexander family envelopes. This savings goes straight back to the church's bottom line.

St. Philip counters no longer have to manually count Alexander family contributions for deposit.

These are our personal experiences and, if you are so moved to join our family of those who regularly give electronically, I encourage you to sign up by clicking the "Give" tab on the St. Philip web site.

Your Brother in Christ,



Don Alexander

Security Giving To St. Philip

As we return from summer vacations and settle into our fall and winter routines, it is a great time to look at our giving to St. Philip Lutheran Church in 2017 and prepare for the Stewardship Campaign for 2018. As you contemplate your giving, I would ask you to consider three alternatives that may affect your personal tax situation. Securities giving can save the donor thousands of dollars in taxes and could be the best financial decision you will ever make. Let me explain why:

1) Gifting of Highly Appreciated Stocks or Mutual Funds

The stock market is at an all time high, and many of our portfolios have highly appreciated securities. When these are gifted directly to an approved 501(c)(3) organization (St. Philip), the entire amount can be deducted as a charitable contribution on the donor's taxes and capital gains taxable income is eliminated. Example: Stock A: market value \$5,000, cost value is \$2,000. If Stock A is gifted to the church, the donor can take a \$5,000 charitable contribution and the resulting \$3,000 capital gain is not taxable. Net result is that the donor can give \$5,000 to the church with almost no out of pocket expense. The tax advantages to this strategy are significant, and it is an efficient way to fulfill your commitment to our ministry.

2) Direct Donation From An IRA

This strategy only applies to donors who are older than 70 1/2 and therefore are required to withdraw an annual required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA account. Instead of receiving the RMD money personally and then gifting to the church, the donor can fill out a distribution form from the IRA custodian or institution and have the money go directly to the 501(c)(3) charity (St. Philip). By using this strategy, the tax impact is neutralized, meaning there is no income tax required on the RMD cash distribution and also no tax deduction given from the church.

3) Donor Directed or Charitable Legacy Funds

A donor can give to a Charitable Legacy Fund, which allows the same gifting strategy and the same tax benefits as giving directly to a church. This strategy is used normally by donors who have larger gifts, who have multiple charities they like to donate to, and who desire larger tax deductions in the year(s) of the gift to offset taxes. The Legacy Fund sells the gifted assets and invests it into mutual funds provided by the Fund and managed by the donor. The assets grow inside the Fund. The donor can then gift at his/her own pace and amount to any 501(c)(3) entity (St. Philip). With this strategy, you can form a foundation in your name in years of high earning or when you receive a higher than normal taxable income. Once the charitable legacy fund is in place, you can direct your donations into the future while your investment is gaining equity. This is especially useful for donors who wish to use income from their prime earning years to guarantee their giving to the church in retirement.

Thank you for considering securities giving to our church. I hope that this changes the way you think about donating to God's work at St. Philip. Please contact me at any time to discuss future giving alternatives.

Joe Edwards
Securities Giving Liaison
St. Philip Lutheran Church

Ways to Serve

Worship leadership for the 11:00 service

Altar Guild – this ministry prepares the altar for communion and cleans up after worship. Please sign up for Sundays on the board in the Narthex or contact Loretta Bragg 919-847-1181 or Mary Lee Steinke 919-954-9187.

Ushers – this ministry welcomes worshippers by distributing the bulletins, collecting the offering, guiding people to communion, and assisting with other needs during worship. Contact John Sullivan 919-848-4765.

Greeters – this ministry welcomes worshippers by greeting them outside (weather permitting), encouraging them to wear a nametag, and by assisting with any other needs. Contact Laura Harris 919-847-6577.

Lector – this ministry reads the appointed first, psalm, and second readings and assists in the distribution of communion. Contact Michelle Hooks 919-880-8994.

Assisting Minister – the ministry assists in worship by initiating prayers, speaking the prayers of intercession, and assisting in the distribution of communion. This person wears one of the robes that are provided and sits near the pastor. Contact Michelle Hooks 919-880-8994.

Sound – This ministry sits by the sound board and adjusts the quality of the sound during the worship service. This person also ensures that a recording is made of the service. Contact Don Helmey 919-870-8485.

GROW – to help with GROW in any of these capacities please contact the church office.

Cook – this ministry requires a person to arrive early on Wednesday afternoons to work with others in preparing the Wednesday evening kid-friendly meals.

Set-up – this ministry helps to set up the tables and chairs for the evening meal.

Clean-up – this ministry helps to clean-up after the meals. This can include washing dishes and putting away left-over food.

- ♦ Help with **property maintenance and clean-up**. Contact Jerry Rimmer 919-781-2420.
- ♦ Participate in **Stephen Ministry training**. Contact Linda Bossert 703-216-5046 or Kathy Blum 919-847-8926.
- ♦ Help **clean apartments at Families Together**. Contact Sandy Glass 845-325-6132.
- ♦ Help make and deliver **Brown Bag** lunches on the 2nd and 4th Saturday. Contact Stacey Bell 919-414-8168.
- ♦ Help make **quilts for Lutheran World Relief**. Contact Kathy Cunningham 919-250-9054.
- ♦ Participate in the **adult choir, kids choir, hand bell choir or as an instrumentalist** contact Jeff Whicker (919-846-2992) or email jeff@st-philip.org.
- ♦ Help with **ministries related to children and youth**. Contact Cathryn Hewett 919-606-2839 or email cathryn@st-philip.org.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	2 7:00 pm AA
3 9:05 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Going Deeper 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Abundance Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Property Team	6 10:00 am Senior Adult Ministry	7 12:30 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal 7:00 pm Finance & Responding	8 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	9 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
10 GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Luncheon 1:00 pm Elmcroft Visit 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 6:00 pm Congregation Council	11 10:00 am Hebrews Bible Study 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study 7:00 pm BSA Leaders	12 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13 9:30 am Quilters GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	14 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal 7:00 pm Finance & Responding Via de Cristo Weekend begins	15 Via de Cristo Weekend 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	16 Via de Cristo Weekend 7:00 pm AA
17 9:05 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship	18 10:00 am Hebrews Bible Study 1:00 pm Bridge Group 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study	19 9:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Abundance Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20 GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	21 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	22 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	23 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
24 9:05 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 12:15 pm Internship Mtg. 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training & Meeting	25 10:00 am Hebrews Bible Study 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study	26 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 10:00 am Senior Book Club 12:30 pm Puzzle Get- together 6:30 pm Women's Fellowship 6:30 pm Men's Pub Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	27 9:30 am Quilters GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	28 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	29 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	30 8:30 am Alley Cats & Angels 7:00 pm AA



CROP Walk October 22, 2017



Sunday Morning Schedule Beginning 9/17/17

9:00—Crossing Contemporary
Worship with Holy Communion

10:10—Sunday School for all ages

11:00—Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion

fyi

919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri
9:00 –4:00



Like us on
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/St-Philip.org)

Rev. Pam Northrup
Senior Pastor
pastorpam@st-philip.org
919-987-0102
(in case of emergency)

Cathryn Hewett
Director of Faith Formation
cathryn@st-philip.org

Jeff Whicker
Director of Music Ministry
jeff@st-philip.org

Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

Y'Sang Milo
Custodian

St. Philip Lutheran Church

7304 Falls of Neuse Road
Raleigh, NC 27615
919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org



Saturday, September 30th