

The Epistle



St. Philip Lutheran Church
December, 2017

Pastor's Message

On Christmas Eve, we will hear this reading from Isaiah, the 9th chapter:

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

For us as Christians, these words from the prophet Isaiah point us directly to Jesus. They point us directly to the baby boy who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born to Mary. They point us to the little boy who was raised in Nazareth by Mary and Joseph. The same boy who frightened his parents when he was not where he was supposed to be. They point us to the fully human and fully divine Jesus whose life, death, and resurrection forever changed our standing before God.

I rest securely on the names for Jesus that are given in this beloved passage: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Each one tells me a little more about who Jesus is and how Jesus relates to me and all of God's people. He is the Wonderful Counselor who wants only good things for us and so journeys with us in the ups and downs of life.

He is the Mighty God who was present at creation, who became flesh and dwelt among us, who defends us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He is the Everlasting Father whose grace, compassion, and faithfulness has no end. He is the Prince of Peace who enters our troubled spirits bringing the peace, wholeness, that surpasses all understanding.

My friends, we live in the already and not yet of God's promises. Jesus, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, has already entered this world and our lives. He has already exercised his authority and changed everything. We also live in the not yet of God's actions as we wait, wait for the fulfillment of all that God has done, is doing, and promises yet to do. The season of Advent and the short season of Christmas, wrap us in the coming of Jesus: his first coming as child who was given FOR us; and his second coming to complete what has already been done.

May the hope of Advent and the joy of Christmas fill your hearts and minds with peace!

Pastor Pam



Invite

Vicar's Message

The first Sunday in Advent is the beginning of the church year. For the four weeks in the Advent season we are waiting. Waiting for the joy to come, waiting for a Savior, waiting for something. It is the beginning of our annual re-creation, the re-creation of the life of Christ's people.

It seems like we are in a time of waiting, wondering what will happen next. As we make our holiday plans we read of one tragedy after another. We exchange texts and emails and Facebook messages to make plans for the celebrations to come – or to share the pains that our loved ones are suffering. We look forward to what comes next, not knowing whether it will be better – or not.

So also in Advent we remember that the early people of God were waiting, wondering, watching for the Messiah. The early faithful did not know exactly how the birth of Christ would happen. They had the prophets but they didn't know there would be shepherds, and Wise Men, Herod and Pilate and cruel painful deaths.

They just knew that something was wrong in their lives and that God had promised something really, really good to come.\

We have the advantage of knowing what that goodness is. At Christmas we will celebrate the birth of a baby who, contrary to all appearances, would change everything. We will start the annual journey from Christmas, through Epiphany and Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the Sundays after Pentecost. Then, a year from now, we will be back at this starting place, ready to remember once again that this amazing baby Jesus lived his whole life for the express purpose of showing us how to live, teaching us to love, and making it possible by his Resurrection for us to be part of the kingdom of God even in a most egregiously broken world.

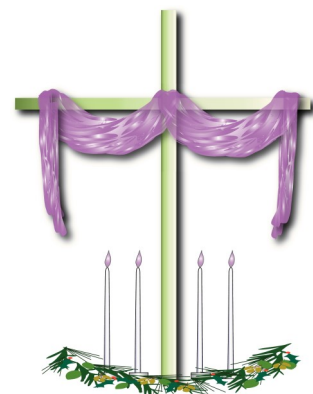
No matter if this is a season of wonder or a season of pain for you, Jesus is caring for you, drawing you to himself, and keeping you in all good grace.

May that peace fill this season for you,
Vicar Sharon

As we spend time reflecting this Advent season on the many blessings God gives us, St Philip is a meaningful one. St Philip means so much due to the leadership, care and work of our wonderfully dedicated staff in the worship and ministries we enjoy and love.

You are invited to show your gratitude and appreciation by contributing to the Staff Christmas Gift. Please place your gift in the offering plate and mark it as "Staff Christmas Gift".

Blessings,
Kathy Cunningham, Council President



Small Groups and the Spiritual Practice of Hospitality

You're invited and encouraged to participate in one of the small groups that will be forming in January!

In addition to mutual conversation and prayer, these small groups will be exploring the spiritual practice of hospitality.

One of our core values is Extravagant Welcoming. We live out extravagant welcoming when we actively and fully engage with each other, newcomers in our faith community, the stranger, and all those we interact with each day. Extravagant Welcoming is at the heart of the spiritual practice of hospitality.

Hospitality is not so much a task as it is a way of living our lives and sharing ourselves. Although it involves responsibility and faithful performance of duties, hospitality emerges from a grateful heart; it is first a response of love and gratitude for God's love and welcome to us.

Understanding the church as God's household has significant implications for hospitality. More than anywhere else, when we gather as church our practice of hospitality should reflect God's gracious welcome. God is our host, and we are all guests of God's grace. However, in individual churches, we also have opportunities to act as hosts who welcome others, making a place for strangers and sojourners.

Small groups will begin the week of January 8 and will meet on Monday mornings at 11:30 a.m., Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m., and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendar now and make plans to participate. You are encouraged to indicate your involvement at the Welcome Center so that plans can be made.



Music Ministries Director's Message

Nearly 6 months ago, I began serving as Director of Music Ministry here at St. Philip. While I have had a church job constantly since I was 14 years old, St. Philip was my first experience playing for a church grounded in liturgy. Prior to coming to St. Philip, I had never directed a Children's Choir or a hand bell choir. Thank you for your support as I learned these new aspects of music ministry.

One of the things I have enjoyed most, is digging up classical pieces that I played in college to use for service music. I rediscovered Scarlatti Sonatas that I hadn't attempted in over 30 years and remembered that they were short, fun, and perfect for Preludes and Offertories.

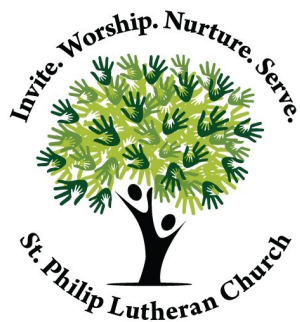
We got a great new piano for the Crossing just so I could be more comfortable playing in the band. I hope someone will continue to play it proudly. My thanks to the wonderful musicians in the Crossing service.

To our wonderful Voices of Praise, I will miss you more than you could possibly know. You have been remarkably faithful. Thank you for the Vivaldi that has been so difficult. I hope that the hard work produced a performance that was exhilarating and fun for you. Be proud of yourselves, 'cause I sure am proud of you.

To the congregation, thank you for all the kind words and support. I wish so many good things for St. Philip in the future and I know that someone will quickly fill my shoes. Thank you especially for your love during the passing of my former partner, Bob. When I think of the timing of my brief tenure at St. Philip I think God may have made sure I had a support system when Bob passed away: a congregation where I could ask for prayers and openly grieve.

So, to all I say thank-you, I will miss you, and I wish you the brightest of futures!

Jeff Whicker



Worship

A Service of Longing and Hope

A Blue Christmas Service Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Not everyone feels like celebrating during the Christmas season. The joyous and hectic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas can sometimes magnify the feelings of grief, sadness, depression, loneliness, anxiety, fear and loss. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas. It may be that the blue of the Advent season (which symbolizes hope) is the very remedy we need for what makes us feel "blue" at Christmas.

This service of longing and hope comforts us in the midst of the often competing emotions of anticipation and heartache, joy and sorrow. Everyone who is seeking release from the burdens of this season, respite from the hectic pace, and relief from the sometimes overwhelming preparations for Christmas is invited to this Blue Christmas worship service which will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 p.m.



Worship in December

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, (Dec. 17th), both services will celebrate that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy with the coming of Jesus. We'll hear the story of John the Baptist who proclaims that he comes to testify to the light. John directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

Also on Dec. 17th, we will hold our annual service of longing and hope; our Blue Christmas service.

When the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve both fall on December 24th it creates an interesting juggling act. Here at St. Philip, we will mark the 4th Sunday of Advent in a combined service at 10 am in the sanctuary. At this service, we'll light the last blue candle in the Advent wreath and hear the annunciation by the angel Gabriel to Mary. Our final hymn that morning will be "Joy to the World" as we celebrate the coming of our Lord

Then you are encouraged to return for one of the evening Christmas Eve services which are being held at 4, 7, and 9 pm. See the article about Christmas Eve for a description of these services. Each one is unique so select the one that best fits your needs.



Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00—Crossing Contemporary
Worship with Holy Communion

10:10—Sunday School for all ages

11:00—Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion

Christmas Eve at St. Philip

As you drive into the parking lot --
your eyes capture the warm glow of lighted candles shining through the windows...

When you walk up the paved brick entry --
your ears catch phrases of seasonal carols accompanied in a variety of ways, some played on the church organ, others from the piano, and still others from guitar and drums...

Inside the Sanctuary and in Kepley Hall surrounded by intergenerational worshippers --
your voice joins in singing Christmas hymns, some classics that have been cherished through centuries and others more recent contributions to our Christmas celebration.

Each of the three services on Christmas Eve will be unique:

At the 4:00 pm service, we'll begin outside with a live nativity. We'll welcome Farmer Mary from Winterpast Farm in Wake Forest who will be bringing a ram, some goats, and maybe even a sheep or two. Ba Ba the Ram is featured in the photo! Arrive about 3:30 so that you can interact with the animals. Children will be invited to wear a simple costume as we tell the story of the birth of Christ.

Following the nativity story, we'll follow Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus into the Sanctuary where we'll sing more carols, celebrate Holy Communion, and conclude the service with candle lighting and the singing of "Silent Night."

The 7:00 pm contemporary worship service will be held in Kepley Hall. The Christmas Gospel will be shared through readings, familiar carols, and by more recent contributions to the repertoire of Christmas music led by the Crossing musicians. The service will include the celebration of Holy Communion and will conclude with candle lighting and the singing of "Silent Night."

The a 9:00 pm traditional worship service will be held in the Sanctuary. The Christmas Gospel will include many of the most revered sacred hymns and carols celebrating our Savior's birth. With music led from the organ, seasonal choral anthems will be offered by Voices of Praise Adult Choir. The service will include the celebration of Holy Communion and will conclude with candle lighting and the singing of "Silent Night."

YOU, your family, your friends—

are invited to worship and experience the ageless Christmas message at St. Philip.



Children and Middle School Ministries

(CMSM)

The advent wreath is on the counter, waiting for its place in the center of the dining room table and the advent calendar is awaiting its place on the wall. We are in active preparation for a familiar season of anticipation. This year, however, there is additional preparation taking place in my home and family. Boxes of books, taped closed and stored for several years, are open with their contents spilling across the floor in a happy rainbow of shapes, sizes, and colors. Hannah, my two-year-old, has a new backpack and lunchbox as she prepares for her first days of preschool, and my pinterest pages are a battle between ideas for packed lunches and new ideas for faith formation activities and crafts. This is an exciting season of anticipation, expectation, and new beginnings! The image of following the star resonates with me, this year. Can you imagine following the star toward the Christ child? Can you imagine not quite knowing what you will find when you arrive or what you will encounter along the way, but proceeding onward with anticipation and expectation? How scary but how exciting! As the newly called Director of Children and Middle School Ministries, I find myself in the midst of the excitement, even as so much remains to be discovered.

I look forward to getting to know the children, youth, and families of St Philip as we journey through the Advent season of preparation toward a Christmas season of joy, and I look forward to becoming a part of the mission and ministry. I look forward to observing and participating in myriad settings so I can get to know as many people as possible, and I look forward to getting involved!

My hope for this season of Advent is to prepare myself, the children, middle school youth, and families of St Philip for a coming season of excitement, growth, and development. We will be invited to stretch, sometimes in uncomfortable ways, as we follow the star ever closer to Christ. We will be invited to journey through the barking cries and into the sounds of children's joy as they learn, firsthand, the love of God through the love of their faith community. And I look forward, with you, to sharing this great news with our neighborhood and the world!

But first I want to hear from you, too. As we journey together this advent, following the star toward Christ, what are your hopes and dreams? How do you anticipate meeting Christ in our world? What are your dreams that stem from having a Director for Children and Middle School Ministries?

Lets journey together!
Pastor Elizabeth Neely





Nurture

Monday Bible Studies – New study begins in January

Get ready to study Paul's letter to the Romans! This is considered the pinnacle of Paul's writing and thinking. Within its pages are profound insights into living faithfully, passionate debates about the fate of the Jews, and cherished messages of comfort and love.

We'll begin the study on Monday, January 8 at 10 am and at 6:30 pm

We'll use the *Interpretation Bible Studies study guide on Romans*. Please reserve your copy by indicating your participation at the Welcome Center. Cost for the book is \$10.25. A Kindle version of the book is available on Amazon.

Nurturing Relationships

The Nurture Relationships Mission Table is considering how to do two things as smoothly as possible:

- 1.) Help worshippers to be able to identify one another by name.
- 2.) Help worshippers to register their attendance in the My Church app

* blue cards are always available

The Nurture Relationships group has nicknamed themselves the "Tag Team."

They are looking at offering nametags on lanyards, as the clip-on tags are sometimes inconvenient. The goal is to start offering the name tags on lanyards to worshippers in December, the first day of Advent, in honor of new beginnings. Tag Team members will help you:

- find your name tag before worship
- check in on the MyChurch app or do it for you
- after church, collect your lanyards and nametags.



The Tag Team members will organize name tags by family last name and put them in alphabetical order outside the worship space.

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact a Tag Team member: [Sylvia Saenger](#), [Vickie Seames](#), [Nancy Grant](#), [Kathryn Edwards](#), and [Carol Williamson](#).

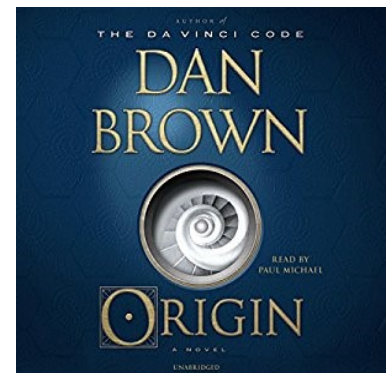
Senior Adult Book Club

The Senior Ministry Book Club will not meet during the month of December, but will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 10:00am in the church Parlor. We welcome anyone interested in reading and discussing books.

The next book that we are reading is *Origin, A Novel* by Dan Brown. *Origin* is a 2017 science fiction mystery thriller novel by American author Dan Brown. and the fifth installment in his Robert Langdon series, following *Angels & Demons*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *The Lost Symbol*, and *Inferno*

Origin, A Novel is available at the Wake County Library.

If you have questions, please contact [Kathryn Edwards](#) or [Carol Williamson](#).



Message from Cathryn Hewett

So, now that I'm part time, what does that mean? Moving forward, my main focus will be in high school ministries. I will be able to teach Sunday school most weeks, continue with youth group, including lock ins and short retreats, take our youth to LYO Assembly, national gathering, mission trips, and so on.

I will also turn some attention to our transitional college students offering get togethers and the annual Christmas break lock in, which we've been doing for a few years now. But mostly I will work to keep the youth connected and to provide needed support. Texts, notes, care packages and the like are a wonderful reminder of the faith family who loves you back home.

I look forward to being able to offer more individualized attention to our HS youth as life in HS is wrought with stress, bewildering body and emotional changes, and a need for a safe adult to talk to and ask for guidance. I have done this to the best of my abilities within time restraints and look forward to having more freedom in this area.

I am excited to focus on the high school youth and transitional college students, and to be able to make time to focus on myself a bit too. God is good!

With Joy and Thanksgiving,
Cathryn Hewett

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

All Classes Meet at 10:10–10:50

- **0-2 year olds:** Nursery is offered during the SS hour.
- **2's-PreK:** Meet in the **blue room**, Education Bldg.
- **K-2nd:** Meet in the **red room**, Education Bldg.
- **3rd-5th:** Meet in the **purple room**, Education Bldg.
- **Confirmation (6th-7th):** Basement, Education Bldg.
- **Post-Confirmation (8th-12th):** Meet in the basement, Education Bldg.
Real life faith talk in a spiritually & emotionally safe setting. Some silly stuff too!!
- **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 winter the theme is *Faith in Action***, exploring scripture passages from Daniel, Matthew, Acts, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Timothy and James to guide the discussions. This class meets in the Library.
- **Faith & Fellowship Sunday School** - Starting January 8, Faith and Fellowship will be studying the draft version of the ELCA social statement on women and justice. God's intention for humanity is abundant life for all regardless of gender and sex. There is much happening all around us that make the rights and needs of women a timely topic for thoughtful conversation and theological discernment. All are welcome to join the conversation. At the end of the class, participants are encouraged to offer thoughts and feedback that will then be considered for inclusion in the final version of the statement. Come discuss a topic critical to our time and make your voice heard. A brief synopsis of the draft document is here: [ELCA Women and Justice](#) or [full document](#).

There's a place for you in Sunday School!

Let's Welcome Mackenzie and her family to St. Philip!



Hi! My name is Mackenzie Noecker and I will be 7 years old on December 16th. I have a lot of nicknames. People call me 'Mac', 'Big Mac', 'Miss Mac', 'Mackie' and 'Mackenzie'. I am a big sister and a little sister! Libby is 4.5, Sloane is 21, Alexis and Slade are 23! I love my Mommy, Daddy, Grammy, Pop-Pop, Grandpop, Miss Chris, 10 aunts/uncles and 6 cousins.

I am in Kindergarten at North Ridge Elementary. My favorite color is green and I love to eat strawberries! I take dance. I am a Girl Scout. I love to swim, play dress up, go to the beach, play outside, and read books. I like music, and recently started Joyful Noise Kids Choir.

I can smile, giggle, cry, and vocalize feelings, but generally, I use my eyes to communicate. When I don't have my Tobii eye gaze device with me, it is easiest to communicate with me by asking me yes/no questions. I will look at you for 'yes' and look away for 'no'. But please give me a few seconds to respond!

From my parents (Gwen and Scott): Mackenzie is much like other girls her age; however, she is trapped in a body that doesn't cooperate for her. Mackenzie was diagnosed with Rett syndrome at the age of 22 months. Rett syndrome is a postnatal neurological disorder that is randomly occurring, and caused by mutations on the X chromosome on a gene called MECP2. Rett syndrome strikes all racial and ethnic groups, and occurs worldwide in ~1 of every 10,000 female births. Rett syndrome causes problems in brain function that are responsible for sensory, emotional, motor and autonomic function. Rett syndrome symptoms appear after an early period of apparently normal or near normal development until six to eighteen months of life, when there is a slowing down or stagnation of skills. A period of regression then follows.

There currently are neither treatments, nor a cure for Rett syndrome. In 2016, Mackenzie was one of ~90 girls in the world who participated in a phase 2 clinical trial for the first possible drug to treat Rett syndrome. A phase 3 trial for this same drug is set for 2018 and we are hopeful that Mackenzie will be amongst the participants in that trial as well.

Mackenzie's biggest challenges at this time are her inability to purposefully use her hands, atypical expressive language, breathing abnormalities, and instability when walking. What we'd like people to know most about Mackenzie is that she hears you, and she understands you, even though she may be challenged at times to acknowledge or respond to you.

To learn more about Mackenzie and kids like her suffering from Rett syndrome, please go to Rettsyndrome.org. To follow Mackenzie, her celebrations, challenges, loves, humor and her life, please LIKE and share her Facebook page: 'Mackenzie's Friend-zies'.



**Lutheran Youth
Organization**

**Calling all Middle and High School youth,
it's time to get registered for the LYO Assembly!!!**

February 23-25, \$75

The **Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Assembly** is held in Greensboro every year and includes music, worship, speakers, and breakout sessions with LOTS of other Lutheran youth in North Carolina.

- The cost for this weekend is \$75, St. Philip will be paying the \$65 balance of every youth registration.
- We will meet at St. Philip at 5:30 on Friday.
- We will NOT be stopping stop for dinner along the way. So come having already eaten or with packed food
- Your child does not need money on the weekend, however there are snack purchasing opportunities if so desired.
- We will return to St. Philip by the end of 11:00 service on Sunday!
- Registration deadline is January 5th.

High School/College Youth Lock In

December 28th, 7pm - TBD

All high school and college aged youth are invited to come hang out during Christmas break!

Come late, leave early,
enjoy the whole thing!

We'd love to see you and
to get reconnected!!!

RSVP to Cathryn at
cathryn@st-philip.org!

Men's Breakfast Club

Will meet on December 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@yah](mailto:bouknightf@yahoo.com)



Senior Ministry Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 3rd at 10:00 am
in the Music Room.

We welcome new members. Come, join us for
our first meeting of the new year.

Help plan activities for 2018.

Everyone is welcome!
We hope to see you there.



SERVE

There's a place for you!

Great News!

Jake's family has just received preliminary approval to become homeowners!

You may recall that Jake was sleeping in a van with his father and younger sister before coming to us. Jake no longer has to worry about where he is going to sleep at night, and that is because of you.

Now our 8-year-old friend has a safe, warm bed and is reunited with his mom in our short-term housing. Jake now has a place to run and play. He participates in our after-school program and is growing academically.

This is how you change a life when you invest in Families Together.

Yet more and more, the face of homelessness is the face of a child. In Wake County, child homelessness has risen 56% in the last seven years.

When you give to Families Together, you become a partner in the mission to move families from homelessness to home. Your partnership is truly valued, and your contribution will be directly invested into the success of families with children through our housing and one-on-one support programs.

Give now to the Families Together Matching Gift campaign and you can have twice the impact.

Your donation received by December 31st can be matched! Your new or increased donation of \$25 becomes \$50, and so on.



More Great News!

We are thrilled to share with you that on November 16th Families Together was awarded the GlaxoSmithKline Community Impact award! Along with nine other organizations, Families Together received a \$40,000 grant and recognition for making our community healthier. We were given this award for being innovative, community-centered, and transformative with our work for families like Jake's. This would not have been possible without the support you have given us and this award is as much yours as it is ours. We will be sharing more with you in the near future, but you can also check out any of our social media platforms at [families2gether](https://families2gether.org) if you would like to engage with us further. Thank you again for all that you do.

Childcare Volunteers Needed

As part of our program we offer bi-monthly workshops for families on many topics that will benefit them when they get back to independence. We provide classes on financial, physical, and emotional management during these meetings. These classes are so important for families that we make them as accessible as possible. One way we do that is by providing childcare for parents while they participate in the workshops. If you are available one or two Thursdays a month from 6-7:30pm at the Salvation Army please contact Meghan Olesen at meghan@familiestogethernc.org.

Please keep in touch with Families Together by liking our Facebook Page facebook.com/families2gether

When you share our story, the whole community benefits.



What? Laptops for Cedar Point residents

Where? Lime green bin in the BBM closet in Luther Hall. If you do not have the ability to wipe the hard drive and reinstall the operating system, please let us know. We might be able to help!

Why? Residents are asking for laptops for many reasons! From educational pursuits to finding a job and getting assimilated to our culture.

I want to help more! Great! We need someone who can take laptops, wipe them, and reinstall the OS on them! Many folks feel like they cannot donate their laptops for this reason. Can you help us remove this hurdle?

Questions? Contact Stacey Bell at raleighbells@yahoo.com

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!
- ♦ 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.



G.R.O.W

(Get Renewed On Wednesday—will not meet 12/20 & 12/27)
RETURNS ON January 3rd!

**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)
6:20-7:45	Small Groups
6:30-8:00	MS & HS Youth Groups
7:30-8:45	Voices of Praise Adult Choir

2018 Congregation Council

Name	Council Position	Email
Rev. Pam Northrup	Pastor	pastorpam@st-philip.org
Rodney Hooks	President	rhooks496@gmail.com
Marilyn Caple	Vice President	m.caple@yahoo.com
Liese Faircloth		lbfaircloth@yahoo.com
Edwina Bruce		asbcebecb@aol.com
Sandy Glass		sandyglass57@gmail.com
Don Helmey		dhelmey@earthlink.net
Gillian Kepley	Youth	gchkepley@nc.rr.com
Mike Maness		mikeandlois@bellsouth.net
Crystal Ridenhour		crystalridenhour@gmail.com
John Sullivan		jsull77@gmail.com
Mark Tarquinio		woodyardcarol@att.net
Betty Wahlstrom		bwahl0256@gmail.com
Carol Williams		just1carol@gmail.com
Appointed Positions		
Louise Bouknight	Secretary	bouknightl@yahoo.com
Liese Faircloth	Treasurer	lbfaircloth@yahoo.com
Janis Lawrence	Financial Secretary	mrsjanistango@gmail.com

eGiving

If you are so moved to join others who regularly give electronically, please sign up by clicking the "Give" tab on the [St. Philip web site](#).

November 2017 Financial Summary

The Annual Budgeted Revenue needed
to meet expenses is \$584,582

Giving			
	Actual	Plan	%
November 2017	\$29,228	\$47,966	61%
Year to Date	\$444,284	\$532,704	83%

Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$26,790	\$37,952	71%	\$410,744	\$417,473	98%
Other Income	\$2,438	\$10,014	24%	\$33,540	\$115,231	29%
Total Income	\$29,228	\$47,966	61%	\$444,284	\$532,704	83%
Expenses	\$43,591	\$48,531	90%	\$466,526	\$535,741	87%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$(14,364)	\$(565)		\$(22,242)	\$(3,037)	

Finance Committee Chair's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In several Epistles this year I have kept you posted on how our actual giving has lagged behind our approved budget. As you may recall, we have been running a fair amount behind plan all year. This trend has generally continued, and through October our income (giving) was nearly \$70,000 under plan. On the bright side, expenses through the same period were also significantly less than we had budgeted. The Finance Committee has gone through an exercise of carefully estimating what our expenses should be for the remainder of the year. From that exercise, we believe expenses will be in the range of \$130,000. If our income in November and December were to be at average levels, we could find ourselves short in the range of \$60,000.

While those of you who have been at St. Philip for a long time know our giving tends to increase measurably late in the year, especially in December, it appears to the Finance Committee and Council that without a special effort, we will fall short of our needed income. We want to make sure we meet all our obligations, continue our important ministries, set money aside to maintain our facilities and start 2018 on solid footing.

We are announcing a special catch up campaign to accomplish the above, with the goal of eliminating the potential \$60,000 shortfall. We are asking that you pray about this issue and if you are so led, please give what you are able to this effort to fully fund the good work of St. Philip. There are envelopes for your use in the Narthex and in the area of Kepley Hall. Each is decorated with a picture of a stocking. You can select one with the amount you wish to give or take a blank one and use for any amount. Every gift, large or small will make a difference.

While the additional giving needed to meet our plan is substantial, with God's help, I am confident we have the capacity to meet this challenge. Our church is blessed with wonderful, generous members and we have the potential not only to reach this goal, but also to meaningfully expand our ministries in the future. Coincidentally, the potential shortfall is exactly as it was last year and our congregation responded faithfully to reach the challenge.

Blessings,
Jim Beck
Chair, Finance Committee

2018 ELCA Youth National Gathering in Houston



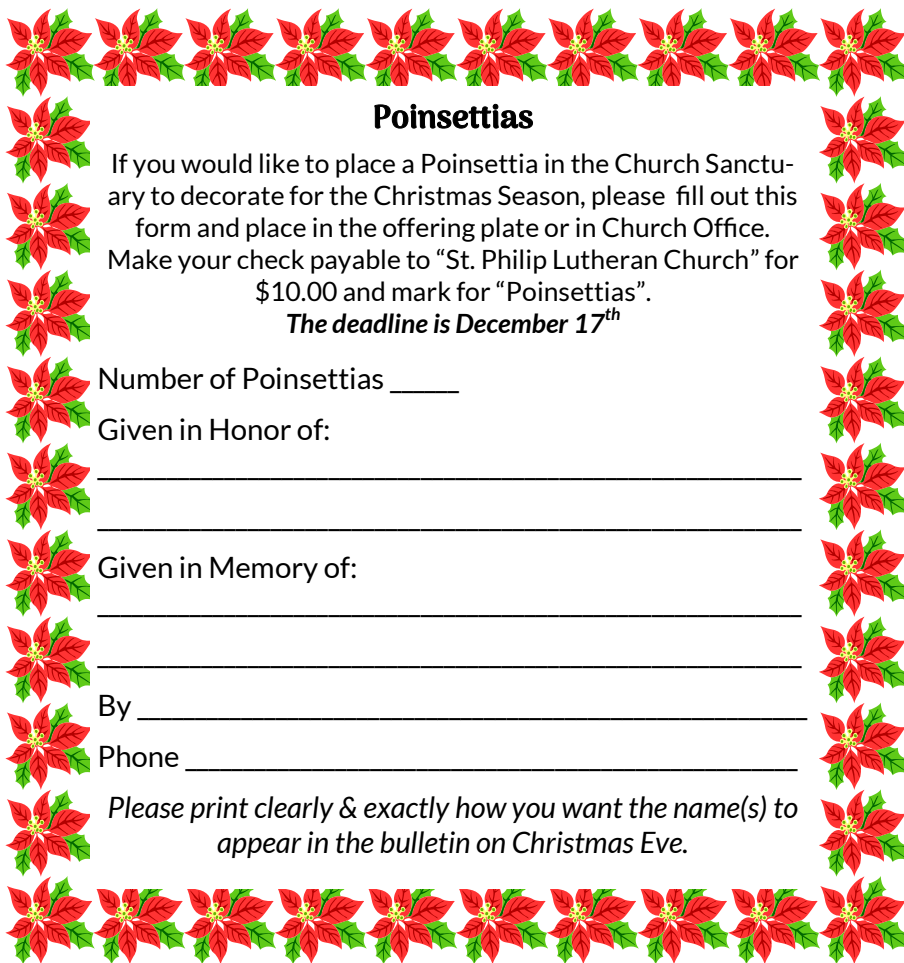
The mission of the ELCA Youth Gathering is to create an amazing faith formation opportunity for high school age youth (finished 9th - just graduated).

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."

To learn more, check out <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/about/overview>.
RSVP to Cathryn SOON! cathryn@st-philip.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 am Senior Adult Ministry GROW 5:45 Meal 6:20 Small Groups 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	2 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	1 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	2 7:00 pm AA
3 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Nurture Relationships Mission Tbl. 7:00 PM Financial Peace	4 10:00 am Hebrews Bible Study 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study 7:00 pm BSA Leaders	5 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Abundance Ministry 6:30pm Serve Mission Table 7:30 pm Women's Fellowship Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Property Team 7:00 pm Preschool Board	6 9:30 am Quilters GROW 5:45 Meal 6:20 Small Groups 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	7 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 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:00 am Called Congregation Meeting 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Congregation Council	11 10:00 am Hebrews Bible Study 1:00 pm Bridge Group 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study	12 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13 GROW 5:45 Meal 6:20 Small Groups 6:30 Youth Groups	14 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	15 9:30 am—Preschool Christmas Program 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	16 7:00 pm AA
17 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 4:00 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service	18 10:00 am Hebrews Bible Study 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	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 10:00 am One Worship Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 4:00 pm Live Nativity 7:00 pm Contemporary 9:00 pm Traditional	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	29 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	30 7:00 pm AA
31 10:00 am One Worship Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship	Jan 1 Office Closed					



Poinsettias

If you would like to place a Poinsettia in the Church Sanctuary to decorate for the Christmas Season, please fill out this form and place in the offering plate or in Church Office. Make your check payable to "St. Philip Lutheran Church" for \$10.00 and mark for "Poinsettias".

The deadline is December 17th

Number of Poinsettias _____

Given in Honor of:

Given in Memory of:

By _____

Phone _____

Please print clearly & exactly how you want the name(s) to appear in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.



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)

Rev. Elizabeth Neely

Director of Children &

Middle School Ministries

pastorelizab@st-philip.org

Vicar Sharon Schulze

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Y'Sang Milo

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Raleigh, NC 27615

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Each year, Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping. Imagine what would happen if we could redirect that spending toward the things that really matter, like putting an end to hunger. With ELCA Good Gifts, you can do just that. Choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of loved ones – from goats to water wells, school uniforms to food for refugees. Start a new tradition by giving these gifts in honor of friends or loved ones this Christmas. Shop now by visiting ELCA.org/goodgifts or the display at the Welcome Center.