

The Epistle

St. Philip Lutheran Church
March 2018

Pastor's Message

The Three Days

My favorite season of the church year is the shortest one known as *The Three Days*, in Latin it is The Triduum. These three days begin at sunset on what we call Maundy Thursday and end at sunset on Easter Sunday, in between we have Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The Triduum is unique in the church's repertoire of liturgies in that it is a single liturgy that continues over a period of days with each day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

For most of my life, I thought of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as totally separate worship services which were basically disconnected from each other. This meant that some years we attended the Maundy Thursday service and other years we attended the Good Friday service depending on what fit best with our schedules. I can't think of a time when we attended both services in the same year until I entered seminary and began to learn more about the connection between these days.

I find the sweep of *The Three Days* to be the most solemn and most joyful liturgies of the year. They are packed full of the sights and sounds of the entire Christian faith. From confession, individual absolution, scripture readings, and hymnody to hand washing, holy communion, and the stripping of the altar. From the reading of the passion of Jesus to the glory of the cross we journey through the most solemn of days. *The Three Days* reaches it's high point at the Easter Vigil and then continues the joyous celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus for the next fifty days.

I attended my first Easter Vigil service while on internship at St. James in Fayetteville. I fell in love with the dynamics of this service and it has become my favorite liturgy of the church year. Beginning with a fire outdoors from which the paschal candle and our candles are lit creates a beautiful procession into the sanctuary. Hearing the Easter Proclamation that has been handed down to us from the fourth century unites us with the fullness of the Body of Christ. The scripture readings this night proclaim the depth and breadth of God's love for us and all creation. We affirm our baptisms together and standing in the light of the resurrection we receive Holy Communion. The Vigil of Easter is the final liturgy of *The Three Days* AND the first worship service in the season of Easter so it's the first time we declare that Christ is Risen! Alleluia.

Participating in the fullness of *The Three Days* deepens and strengthens my faith as the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are brought together in glorious unity. No longer is his life or his death or is resurrection just a single event that stands alone. Experiencing *The Three Days* reminds me that it takes all of this, every action of God and every action of Jesus, to bring about God's redemption and reconciliation of creation.

I hope that you will join with me in marking *The Three Days* (March 29-31). Worship will be held at Noon and 7 pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Vigil of Easter will begin at 7 pm on Holy Saturday.

May the grace of God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, hold you in love and fill you with peace!

Pastor Pam

Vicar's Message

I am in training. At the end of June I will have the privilege and delight of going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas with 28 youth and 4 other adults. The end of June is a hot, humid time in Houston, and Youth Gatherings are renowned for the amount of walking that they require. I started 21 weeks before we are scheduled to leave, walking up and down Falls of Neuse. I am slowly increasing the time I spend on those walks because I will need to be able to spend all day walking. If I can maintain discipline and walk three times per week, increasing the amount of time little by little, my body will get stronger. The more I walk, the longer I will be able to walk, and the better prepared I will be for Houston.

Lent is a kind of training time for understanding who we are in relation to God. During Lent we talk about disciplines: prayer, meditation, fasting, and other disciplines. Like with my walking, the more we pray, the more we are able to pray. The more we meditate on God's mercy, and grace, and love, the more we realize our own lack of mercy, lack of grace, and lack of love. We realize who we are relative to God. In coming to that realization, though, we come to find out exactly how much God loves us. In seeing our own inadequacy and brokenness, we see God's omnipotence and goodness. The more we know and love God, the more we are able to know and love God.

So for this Lent, I invite you into training with me. Walk, or exercise, or whatever form of activity you like – and I will rejoice with you as we get stronger together! But more important than physical training, I invite you to join me in training for relationship with God, slowly increasing the time we spend in prayer and getting to know God. The payoff is out of this world.

In peace and love,
Vicar Sharon



Newcomers Orientation

Saturday, April 21 from 9 am - Noon

We give thanks for the newcomers that God brings into this faith community!

The Newcomers Orientation is an intentional time for people who are new to St. Philip to learn more about this faith community. It's a time to meet others who are newcomers, learn more about the Lutheran tradition, and spend time with Pastor Pam and congregation leaders.

Becoming part of a faith community is a big step but you do not take this step alone. The Holy Spirit has brought you to this place and we look forward to the ministry that we can do together. St. Philip is a congregation with many and various ministries. This offers lots of opportunities for you to be involved and many ways as you use your God-given gifts and skills in service to others and to the glory of God.

Why bother with church membership?

Church membership has been described as our opportunity to grasp hold of each other in responsibility and love.

In joining a church you:

- ◆ Make visible your commitment to Christ and his people. You state before God and others that you belong to this local body of believers.
- ◆ Enter into a relationship of mutual accountability where you can be encouraged and loved while extending encouragement and love to others in the faith community.
- ◆ Make promises to practice the spiritual disciplines of daily prayer, active service, weekly worship, regular Bible study, on-going fellowship, and generous giving within and through this particular community of faith known as St Philip Lutheran Church.

Contact Jane in the church office at admin@st-philip.org or call 919-846-2992 to register for the Newcomers Orientation.

Speak with Pastor Pam if you'd like to attend but can't, or if you have questions or need more information.

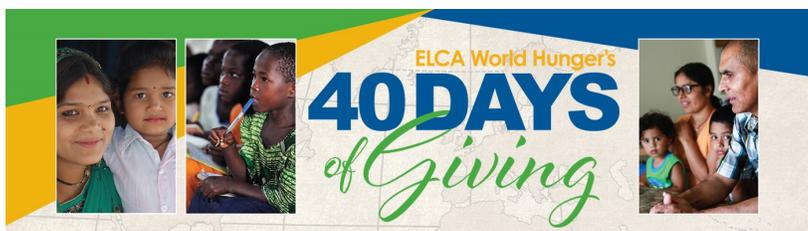
A Holy Conversation

On Sunday, February 18th, St. Philip hosted *A Holy Conversation* following a light lunch in Luther Hall.

How did this come about?

At campfirmation last summer, Sydney Grantham, Grace Kindl, Jakson Attansio, Colin Reinhardt, and Willson Hooks decided that they are not okay with homophobia and, therefore, chose to do a service project based on fighting homophobia. *A Holy Conversation* was the result.

We invited 5 people from the local LGBTQ+ community to come and share their stories with us. Pastor Sharon Taylor from Holy Trinity, Raleigh served as our facilitator. This was an extremely powerful and moving conversation from which we learned quite a bit. The panelists were also served by having a safe platform from which to share. As a result of this experience, one of our high school youth has invited a few of her friends in the LGBTQ+ community at her school to come and talk more with our youth group. The road to acceptance and understanding is paved with listening and sharing. Let us continue the journey!



The [40 Days of Giving](#) is a way for ELCA members to support this church's hunger and poverty ministry during Lent. Choose one of five ELCA World Hunger programs that urgently need support, and walk alongside our neighbors as they address hunger in their communities.

Projects include:

[India: Food and Agriculture](#)

[India: Women's Rights](#)

[Malawi: Education and Income](#)

[Malawi: Health and Wellness](#)

[United States: Accompany Migrants and Refugees](#)

[Online giving](#) is open through Easter (April 1).

Extravagant Welcoming

For visitors and guests, newcomers and regularly attending members, wearing your name tag is an easy way to extend friendship and a warm welcome!



Season of Lent 2018

Lifetree Café continues in March! Thank you to all the people who have participated in discussion and offered your thoughtful words in discussions of the February topics. Lifetree Café will continue in March, starting at 5:45 pm with a meal, and then transitioning into an hour of Lifetree Café discussion at 6:30 pm. Topics for March are:

March 7, 2018: ***You've Got a Problem! Your One-Hour Guide to Making Better Decisions***

"Most people have just one or two styles of problem solving," says Lifetree representative Craig Cable. "This Lifetree program helps people identify their problem-solving style and discover the benefits of trying other techniques as well." During the program, Lifetree participants will consider current problems they're facing and explore new strategies for solving those problems.

March 14, 2018: ***In The News***

The topic of the week will be something timely, taken from the current news. We won't know exactly what that topic will be – but it will be good!

March 21, 2018: ***Do Good Dogs Go to Heaven? Questions About Animals and the Afterlife***

The session will feature a filmed interview with Dr. Kathleen Cooney, a veterinarian and founder of Home to Heaven, an in-home pet euthanasia service. "For the most part, people believe their pets are going to ascend to heaven and the moment death occurs, the soul is gone," Cooney says. "Others say dogs don't think, they react to things, so how can they be in heaven? Everybody has their own opinion."

During the session Lifetree participants will have an opportunity to discuss the times they've had to face the death of a beloved pet.

Come join the discussion!



Introducing The Three Days

We look at the Three Days as one single worship celebration that lasts for three days. Each of the Three Days "tells" a different part of the story of Jesus' saving action. We cannot separate the death of Jesus from his resurrection. The faith community gathers at various times during these days to remember and give thanks together. You and your family are invited and encouraged to experience the fullness of the Three Days by participating in each of the worship services. To miss one of these worship services is to miss part of God's story in Jesus. May God bless our journey, give us peace, and bring us to the fullness of faith!

Maundy Thursday

The title "Maundy" comes from the Latin word for command: Jesus' command that we are to love one another. Maundy Thursday is the first of the Three Days. On this day, we tell the story of the Passover from Exodus 12; the story of the Last Supper from 1 Corinthians; and the story of Jesus' last meal with his disciples from the Gospel of John where we are called to love one another by serving one another in Christ's new covenant of love. We enact the meaning of Maundy Thursday in a variety of ways: a longer rite of confession and forgiveness; an opportunity for hand washing where we signify our love and service to one another; the celebration of Holy Communion, and the stripping of the altar. We leave worship in silence as we are being made ready for Good Friday.

Good Friday

This second of the Three Days is a day of paradox. One would think that the day commemorating the execution of a messiah would be kept in complete mourning. However, our worship on this day is marked not by excessive sorrow, as if we are pretending that Christ is still dead, but rather by solemn devotion. For even on this day we assemble as people of the resurrection. We acknowledge the cross before us as God's gift of life. On this day, we read the entire Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John where the death of Jesus, is paradoxically the triumph of Christ. We enact the meaning of Good Friday, through the ways that we reverence the Cross, through our prayers, and through a worship service that ends simply as we depart in silence.

Continued on next page

The Vigil of Easter

Just as the festivities for Christmas begin on Christmas Eve, the celebration of Easter begins at the Vigil of Easter. The service begins with the striking of a fire and the lighting of candles for everyone. Our candles proclaim the resurrection of Christ as a timeless event even now occurring. At this the third of the Three Days, we experience together the story of salvation. In this joyful worship service, we hear the stories of faith, sing the songs of the tradition, affirm our baptisms, share the bread and wine, and so be joined together with Christ as the light of the world. This full worship service ends in joy and thanksgiving for the entire assembly who gathers, not to wait, but to celebrate the resurrection.

Easter Sunday

Every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord because “on this day” as the Eucharistic Prayer of Thanksgiving states, Christ rose from the dead. So, what makes Easter Sunday worship so special? After journeying through the 40 days of Lent and The Three Days we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with renewed thankfulness, hope, and excitement. Our celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord is so completely central to our faith that The Season of Easter lasts for 50 days. During this season, we will give thanks for the gift of baptism rather than offer confession and we will stand in the light of the resurrection while receiving communion rather than taking the penitential stance of kneeling. We gather on this day, like we do on all other Sundays, to give thanks to God for the salvation that God has prepared for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God proclaimed, the waters of baptism that makes us new creations, and the meal of Christ’s body and blood, we are strengthened and sent out to bear Christ’s redeeming love to the world.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

An Invitation to a Time of Holy Solitude

March 24, 9 am - Noon

You’re invited to a time of Holy Solitude at a quiet retreat which will be held at St. Philip on Holy Saturday, March 24, from 9 am – Noon.

The quiet retreat is a meaningful way to mark the time between the solemnness of Good Friday and joyfulness of Easter Sunday.

So often we come to church because there is something to do: worship, choir practice, handbell practice, property work days, Sunday School, Bible Study, ministry team meetings, youth group, fellowship opportunities, and community service activities like Brown Bag Ministry. All these things are good and necessary for building up the Body of Christ. They enable us to come to God in worship, offering our thanks and our prayers, hearing the word of God proclaimed in word and song, and celebrating the sacraments. They help us care for our facility and the ministry that God gives us to do. They draw us together as a faith community growing in faith, strengthening our relationships with one another, and caring for those in need.

Wouldn’t it be a blessing, though, to come to church simply to be in the presence of God? God longs to spend time with you, uninterrupted time. The quiet retreat provides intentional time to be in the presence of God in the peaceful sanctuary of St. Philip.

At this retreat, you are invited to practice the spiritual discipline of keeping silence as you engage in a variety of activities. Come to pray, reflect, meditate, read, create, write and rest in the presence of God.

We begin the retreat with an opening prayer in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am and end the retreat with a concluding prayer at noon. In between, the time will be unstructured inviting you to move about at your own pace and need. Suggestions for ways to spend your time during the retreat will be provided when you arrive. Materials will be provided for you to make prayer beads, create a collage, read, write, and color. You may participate in as much of the retreat as you desire.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

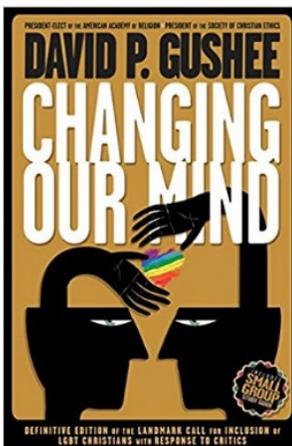
All Classes Meet at 10:10–10:50

- **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 spring the theme is *Acknowledging God*** exploring scripture passages from Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Psalms, Luke, John, 2 Corinthians, Hebrews and Revelation to guide the discussions. This class meets in the Library.
- **Lenten Small Group—*Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Hermits, Prophets, and Rebels*** by Heidi Haverkamp, offers thoughtful inspiration and practical devotional activities such as taking a solitary bus ride or baking a loaf of bread for a neighbor. Daily reflections introduce readers to figures in both Scripture and Christian history whose stories of discernment and discipline are a guide for our own spiritual practices as we seek to know God more fully and follow Christ more faithfully. Hope you will join the conversation on Sunday at 10:10 a.m. in Kepley Hall.
- **Beginning Sunday, April 8th at 10:10 in Luther Hall**— a 7 week series study of the David Gushee book *Changing Our Mind* is a key part of the Reconciling in Christ discernment process at St. Philip.

Changing Our Mind: Definitive 3rd Edition of the Landmark Call for Inclusion of LGBTQ Christians with Response to Critics by David P. Gushee

“Every generation has its hot-button issue,” writes David P. Gushee, “For us, it’s the LGBT issue.” In *Changing Our Mind*, Gushee takes the reader along his personal and theological journey as he changes his mind about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender inclusion in the Church.



With 19 books to his name, Gushee is no stranger to the public arena. He is the author of the “Evangelical Declaration Against Torture” and drafted the “Evangelical Climate Initiative.” “For decades now, David Gushee has earned the reputation as America’s leading evangelical ethicist. In this book, he admits that he has been wrong on the LGBT issue.” writes Brian D. McLaren, author and theologian.

At the end of the series, we will consider the draft Welcoming Statement being prepared by the St. Philip Reconciling in Christ task force. Howard Cunningham will facilitate this series.

This 7 week study will also be offered on Thursdays at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, beginning April 12th.

The book can be purchased from the church for \$16.50 or [Kindle for \\$9.99](#)

Men's Pub Ministry

Our next get together will be on Tuesday, March 27th at Saints & Scholars Pub at 6:30 pm.

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!



Women's Fellowship Group

We gather together once a month inviting women of the congregation to come for good food, fellowship & conversation.

The meeting place for March 27th at 6:30 is the Village Deli and Grill, in Cameron Village.



We will be collecting items to put together a Welcome Basket for PLM Families Together, in March. Watch your weekly eNews email for the Signup Genius link.

Contact Carol Rogers for more information at parakayaker@gmail.com

Saints & Sinners

Come join the Saints and Sinners at 11:30 on Tuesday, March 13th for a delicious lunch and fellowship. We will enjoy a program by Ed Helme on the US Air Force historical aircraft he has flown.

Please RSVP to reserve your place for lunch by calling Carole Mason at 919 872-1518.



Men's Softball

Men's Softball will be starting in April 2018. We need new recruits. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mike Davis at mdavis6364@gmail.com or 321-356-6673.

Ladies Lunch

The next lunch will be at 12:00 on Thursday, March 1 at First Watch, Triangle Town Center

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!



Puzzle Get Together

Tuesday, March 27th at 10:00

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 Breakfast Club

Will meet on March 20th 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



Senior Ministry Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 7th at 10:00 am in the Music Room.

You do not need to be a member of the committee to attend..

Everyone – young & old – are welcome!
We hope to see you there.

AGAPE* (DAVE SCHERER) IS COMING TO RALEIGH

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting Agape* on Sunday March 18 at 3:00 pm.

Agape* performs at the National Youth Gathering, But it's not just for teens. David's high energy engagement is great with people of all ages including young children.

Combining rapping, dancing, storytelling, AGAPE* connects with his listeners in a way that they really "get it". His energy is contagious, and his stories of faith transcend differences. Even those who do not normally enjoy hip-hop, find themselves dancing to his music and captivated by his unique presentation of the Gospel. AGAPE* brings an authentic approach by translating the theological depth of his seminary training into simple songs and stories that can be understood by every listener. His passion is to bring together people of all backgrounds and let them know about God's love for the whole world. This is "AGAPE*"!



There are no tickets. No fee. Just show up at Holy Trinity Raleigh and enjoy!
2723 Clark Ave., Raleigh, NC



Palm/Passion Sunday

Join your St Philip peeps for a **Community Gathering and Egg Hunt** on Palm/Passion Sunday, March 27 at 10:00.

We will enjoy a time of fellowship with coffee and refreshments between the services and there will be an egg hunt for the children.

Families will also receive information about activities to enhance Holy Week. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us in anticipation of the joy of Easter.



St. Philip Lutheran PreSchool News



**St. Philip Lutheran
Preschool**

February was filled with LOVE as we celebrated Valentine's Day showing our friends and families lots of love in many ways. At the end of the month, we began learning about those that help us in our community. An EMT ambulance visited the preschool and a visit to the Fire Station was fun and educational.

In March, we will continue learning about more community helpers as a Dental Hygienist will visit teaching us how to take care of our teeth.

We will have Circus Day and dress up as a character or animal from the circus and have fun games set up. Easter will be celebrated with an Easter egg hunt and party while learning the true meaning of Easter from God's Word.

Registration for the 2018-19 school year is ongoing. Some the classes are filled, but if you or a friend is interested in attending next year please contact us at 919-870-5841. We have wonderful nurturing teachers, large classrooms and an atmosphere of love and caring.

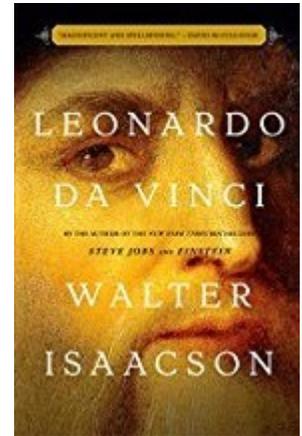
Senior Adult Book Club

The Senior Ministry Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 10:00 am in the church Parlor.

We will be discussing the book *Leonardo Da Vinci* by Walter Isaacson.

Based on thousands of pages from Leonardo's astonishing notebooks and new discoveries about his life and work, Walter Isaacson weaves a narrative that connects his art to his science. He shows how Leonardo's genius was based on skills we can improve in ourselves, such as passionate curiosity, careful observation, and an imagination so playful that it flirted with fantasy.

We welcome anyone interested in reading and discussing books. If you have questions, please contact [Kathryn Edwards](#) or [Carol Williamson](#).



Senior Adult Fellowship

First senior adult bus trip of 2018 is scheduled for Thursday, March 22.

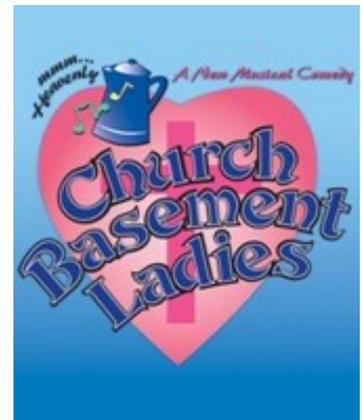
We will leave the church parking lot at 10:45 a.m. and travel to Sanford for a performance at the Temple Theatre of *Church Basement Ladies*.

The play is about...

"...four ladies who run the kitchen and care for the congregation by preparing and serving the food. Like any great kitchen, problems are solved here as well. We see four women handle a Lutefisk Dinner, a funeral, an Easter Fundraiser, and, of course, a wedding. They stave off potential disasters, have fun, share and debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the pastor on course"

Cost of trip is \$40.00 each (covers tickets and transportation). We will stop for lunch at Bay Breeze Seafood Restaurant.

Contact Sandra Kelly, 919-247-1038 or sankelly55@hotmail.com to sign up or if you have questions.



April Bus Trip: On April 19th, we will leave the church parking lot at 10:30 a.m. and travel to Scotland Neck. After lunch, we will visit Sylvan Heights Bird Sanctuary. Sylvan Heights is the world's largest waterfowl park, featuring over 2,500 birds from around the world in large walk-through aviaries. Guests can feed parakeets and flamingos in the park's Landing Zone exhibit.



An amazing handicapped-accessible tree house overlooks the natural wetlands, and the Beaver Pond Blind allows visitors to get closer to North Carolina's native wildlife. (Some golf cart transportation will be available).

Cost for the day is \$40. This will be a fun day.

Make your reservations now by contacting Sandra Kelly, 919-247-1038 or sankelly55@hotmail.com.

Director of High School & Transitional Ministries...a message from Cathryn

ELCA Youth National Gathering Updates



What's happening to get ready for the gathering?

- ◆ Collection of registration forms for 24 youth and 4 adults (We will be going with Grace Lutheran & are also taking youth from other congregations.)
- ◆ Booking airline tickets to and from Houston
- ◆ Booking transportation to and from the airport once in Houston
- ◆ Learning about housing and planning room assignments
- ◆ Learning about how to use the local transportation while in Houston
- ◆ Scouting out restaurants that might be able to fit 33 people as well as quick grab options around Houston
- ◆ Finding a grocery store within walking distance of the hotel!!! Score!
- ◆ Learning about the experiences being offered at the gathering and where they will be: Synod Day, Service Learning, Interactive Learning, Community Life, and Mass Gathering
- ◆ Using the *Getting Ready* materials provided by the gathering as the Sunday school curriculum, covering many social issues that we will learn more about this summer
- ◆ Budgeting VERY carefully!

Sub News

The youth made 100 sub sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday! We all thank you for your support of generous free will donations, we raised \$567.95 to help pay for the 2018 National Gathering!

In January I was able to attend the 2018 Extravaganza! The Extravaganza is an annual 4-day conference that draws together anywhere from 500-750 adults who work with youth in congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the premier renewal, education and networking event of our church. Every third year the Extravaganza! is held in the gathering city so that youth leaders may come and see and experience the city before the big event. In attending workshops about the gathering I am pleased to say that we are right on target and have all of our ducks in a row!!

April will bring with it the annual youth fundraiser, *The Envelope Wall of Generosity!* This fundraiser has made it possible for the children's and youth programs to have some freedom in the way of scholarships especially. The individual cost of the gathering is \$1200-\$1500. Yikes! Part of monies we have raised from our past fundraisers and, hopefully, from this year's wall will be applied to our gathering costs in order to keep the costs low enough for everybody to be able to attend! We couldn't do it without YOU!

Go Tell It!

The high school youth group is proud to announce that this year's Go Tell It! Video is complete and won 1st place and a purse of \$3,000 at the LYO Assembly !! You can check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kleTFuc9NLM&feature=youtu.be>

What is the Go Tell It! challenge? Each year the NC synod's *Engage the Bible Task Group* challenges high school youth groups to choose a bible story and retell it on film in 4 minutes or less. The top videos are voted on during the LYO Assembly and the winning videos are shown at the NC Synod Assembly. This will be the fourth time that St. Philip has entered a video. The past three years our video has won 4th, 2nd, and 1st place respectively.

LYO Assembly 2018

February 23-25 we attended LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) Assembly in Greensboro. There were approximately 500 youth from across the state for a giant youth group weekend. The theme of the weekend was: Love Like Jesus! Below are some LYO 2018 fun facts:

- 19 youth and 5 adults attended.
- Our very own Meredith Bateman is a singer in the synod youth band and knocked our socks off!
- We had 6 youth who served as small group leaders facilitating activities and discussions throughout the weekend!
- We took 3 youth from other congregations with us.
- In our group picture you'll notice some kids that aren't members at St. Philip. These are folks that are very much part of our family through our TEC connections and have been named St. Philip, ETC.
- The food was yucky. Well, except breakfast!
- We all wore pajamas to the "pick your theme" banquet dinner. The dance had the best play list in years and there was A LOT of dancing!



Financial Forum

Sunday, March 18th at 10:00 in Kepley Hall – Come to learn more about how the finances of the church are managed. Liese Faircloth, Church Treasurer, Jim Beck, Chair of the Finance & Responding Team will be on hand to answer questions.

Director of C.M.S.M.'s Message

(Children & Middle School Ministries)

Summer Camp!

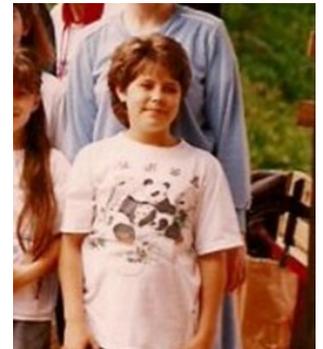
It's hard to believe, sitting here in my sweater on a cold damp day, that it is time to think about summer camp. Almost past time to begin thinking of registrations, in fact. Summer Camp is one of those great memories of my childhood summers. What is better than spending a week with friends instead of family and spending your days doing all the fun camp things rather than chores and boredom. I had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of camps- water play camp, horse camp, Girl Scout camp, leadership camp, band camp, and church camp- and I did so with a wide range of people. Looking back at those summers, however, the experiences that rise to the top of my memories are the summers at church camp.

One of my favorite summer camp memories is the summer we walked through the Bible over the span of the week. The day that stands out most is the when we saw an actual burning bush and heard the voice of God from above. All the weeks of church camp, however, are wrapped up with the warmth and glow of the campfire. It only takes the smell of a campfire for me to be transported back to the evenings on the mountaintop.

I can feel the warm glow of the fire in the slightly cooler air of the evening and I can hear the guitars as we sing our faith together. "Sanctuary" and "Awesome God" are also immediate portals back to those evenings on the mountaintop. It's not only the physical mountaintop experiences that echo from my years of summer camp, the mountaintops of faith experience are a key memory.

These experiences at Summer Camp were formative in my faith and I always get excited when the summer camp brochures start arriving in my mailbox. Agapé + Kure Beach Ministries and Novus Way (Lutheridge and Lutherock) are the ELCA opportunities for these faith centered summer camps here in North Carolina. There are camp opportunities for children, youth and families, and camp even comes to us at St. Philip. Check out the camp opportunities here and on the bulletin board in the hallway between Kepley and the Sanctuary. Go Camp!!!

✝ Pastor Elizabeth



Pastor Elizabeth at summer camp 1989

SAVE THE DATES!

CAMPFIRMATION AT CAMP AGAPE

Who?	Rising 8th grade GIFT youth
What?	Campfirmation led by awesome camp counselors
Where?	Camp Agapé
When?	June 17-22
Why?	To enjoy the world of summer camp. To build community. To faith talk. To grow. To have fun!
COST?	\$300.00 (St. Philip will pay \$119 of the total cost of the camp week).
REGISTER:	pastorelizabeth@st-philip.org

Agapé Day Camp

Who:	Rising 1-8 graders
Where:	St. Philip
When:	July 16-20 9:00 am— 3:00 pm
Why:	To learn about creation, God, themselves. To enjoy the company of other young folks. To have fun singing, dancing, crafting, playing, serving...
Cost:	\$95 (includes a t-shirt)



Saturday, March 17th

Many volunteers will be needed to join in the Spring Property Work Day! We will be cleaning interior furniture, HVAC air vents, polishing carvings, moving pews, dusting lights, washing windows, cleaning gutters, normal yard maintenance and we hope to finish trimming the shrubs behind educational building.

Questions? Contact Jerry Rimmer at djrimmer@bellsouth.net

St. Philip gives about 75 baby diapers every month through our partnership with The Diaper Bank. Contact Stacey Bell for information on how you can contribute. Raleighbells@yahoo.com



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 raleighbells@gmail.com.

Brown Bag Ministry

♦ Brown Bag Ministry Food Pickup

We are looking for people to meet at the Food Bank on the 2nd or 4th Thursday at around 9:30 to pick up St. Philip's portion of food for BBM that week. It helps if you have a roomy vehicle! You will not do the shopping, just pick up food from the person who does and unload it at St. Philip. If just 4 people step forward, then we'd each only have to pick up once every other month! Just another way that many hands make light work! Interested in more details?

- ♦ 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



Consider exploring your musical gifts

No age limit! No experience necessary!
Only...a heart willing to serve through God's incredible gift of Music Ministry!

Choir Rehearsals are on Wednesdays

6:45-7:15 pm— Joyful Noise Kidz Choir
(Music Room)

7:30-8:40 pm—Voices of Praise Adult Choir
(Sanctuary)

Handbells on Sundays at 5:00 pm

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

On Sunday, March 4th, Shelley Bower, Michael Stewart, and Vicar Sharon will be commissioned at both services as our newest Stephen Ministers. These individuals have completed 50 hours of training in providing high quality, confidential, one-to-one, distinctively Christian care. We give thanks for them, their dedication to training, and their desire to serve as Stephen Ministers.

We continue to give thanks for our current Stephen Ministers: Laura Carlson, Kathy Cunningham, Sandy Glass, Dan Heyl, and Lois Knauff who continue to provide distinctively Christian care to their care receivers. Please keep all of our Stephen Ministers in your prayers as they carry the love of Christ to those who will receive their care.

Stephen Ministers extend and deepen the care that our congregation provides as they intentionally and faithfully provide care to people who are grieving, in long term care, facing hospitalization or medical treatment, or dealing with other difficult situations and changes in their lives.



Hope Begins With a Home Campaign starts

At Families Together we appreciate you and our member churches for being the pillars of our mission to end family homelessness in Wake County. Your support allowed us to serve 206 families last year, with 454 of the family members being children. We have made huge strides in taking families from homelessness to home, but there are still children who do not know where they will sleep tonight. In fact, 14 children become homeless in Wake County. With 56% more homeless children and youth in our community now than seven years ago, we must take urgent action.

Beginning March 1, your new or increased donation to Families Together will be matched by The Stewards Fund. Visit FamiliesTogetherNC.org to make a secure, easy donation online. Your gifts create loving homes where parents can provide their children with the peace and security of a stable roof overhead. Thank you!

Since each caring relationship is different, the Stephen Minister and the person receiving care determine when and where they meet for prayer and caring conversation.

If you'd like to explore receiving confidential, one-to-one, distinctively Christian care from a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Pam. If you are aware of someone who may benefit from this kind of caring relationship, please get the person's permission before referring them to Pastor Pam.

We give thanks for Linda Bossert and Kathy Blum who serve faithfully as Stephen Leaders at St. Philip. They share responsibilities for teaching training modules and facilitating peer group supervision. Linda is stepping away from this role to pursue other things. We deeply appreciate her service and will miss her caring presence! Kathy Blum continues as a Stephen Leader along with Pastor Pam.

A new Stephen Ministry training class will begin in late September. Speak to Pastor Pam or Kathy Blum if you're interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Minister.



Sasha's Story

Sasha was in her 7th grade class when her mother suddenly pulled her out. The car was packed and her two sisters were inside. Her father's violent outbursts had gotten worse at home and Sasha worried it would come to this. Her mom had grabbed what belongings she could and they were leaving that day for good. Approximately 25% of the families served by Families Together are fleeing domestic violence situations. FT partners with a local domestic violence shelter to move women and children into safe affordable housing that they can sustain. Sasha is now on the college track in high school and dreams of being a surgeon one day.

Share and help us get the word out

Connect with us on Instagram ([Families2gether](https://www.instagram.com/Families2gether)). You'll also find regular updates on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/families2gether and on Twitter [@families2gether](https://twitter.com/families2gether).



G.R.O.W.

For a midweek renewal through a meal, music, youth groups, small groups and fellowship!!

Free will donations are encouraged!

Begins at 5:45 pm

Bring your friends! All are Welcome!!

LENT SCHEDULE

5:45 - Meal

6:30 - Lifetree Café

6:45 - Joyful Noise Kids Choir

7:30 - Voices of Praise

A Message from the GROW Meal

Team:

Dear St. Philip Family,
This Lenten season we will have the opportunity to gather in Luther Hall 5:45-6:30 to share a meal and move directly to Lifetree Café at 6:30—clean up will happen after Lifetree Café.

The menu plan:

Mar 7 Sandwiches and Soup (PB&J, Salmon salad, cucumber & cream cheese, broccoli/cheese soup and fruit)

Mar 14 Mexican (Fish tacos, rice, beans, jicama salad, Cheese Quesadillas, fruit, maybe a shrimp/avocado salad)

Mar 21 Sandwiches and soup (tuna salad, pimento cheese, "grilled Portobello", tortellini/vegetable soup, salad and fruit)

If you have any questions and/or would like to volunteer to participate in the preparation/serving/clean up for the meal please contact me at asbcebecb@aol.com or 919-846-0142. Thank you, Edwina & team

Giving	Actual	Plan	%
January 2018	\$44,885	\$47,903	94%
Year to Date	\$44,885	\$47,903	94%

**January 2018
Financial Summary**

Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$42,596	\$38,835	110%	\$42,596	\$38,835	110%
Other Income	\$ 2,289	\$ 9,067	25%	\$ 2,289	\$ 9,067	25%
Total Income	\$44,885	\$47,903	94%	\$44,885	\$47,903	94%
Expenses	\$41,566	\$49,238	84%	\$41,566	\$49,238	84%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 3,319	\$ (1,335)		\$ 3,319	\$ (1,335)	

The Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$582,210



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal 7:00 pm FPU 7:30 pm Wittenberg Choir Concert	2 10:00 am Al-Anon 6:30 pm Council Work Session 7:00 pm AA	3 9:00 am Council Work Session 7:00 pm AA
4 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:00 am Holy Solitude Small Group 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Worship & Music	5 10:00 am Romans Bible Study 6:30 pm Romans Bible Study	6 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Abundance Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Property Team	7 10:00 am Senior Adult Ministry GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Lifetree Café 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	8 11:30 am Refugee Wellness 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal 7:00 pm Finance & Responding 7:00 pm FPU	9 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm TEC Community Lock in 7:00 pm AA	10 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA  Time to Spring Ahead
11 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:00 am Holy Solitude Small Group 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells 5:30 pm G.I.F.T. 6:00 pm Congregation Council 6:30 pm Nurture Relationships Table	12 10:00 am Romans Bible Study 6:30 pm Romans Bible Study 7:00 pm BSA Leaders	13 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Saints and Sinners 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Preschool Board	14 9:30 am Quilters GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Lifetree Café 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	15 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal 7:00 pm FPU	16 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	17 8:30 am Property Work Day 2:00 pm Memorial Service for Loni Dapp 7:00 pm AA
18 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:00 am Holy Solitude Small Group 10:00 am Financial Forum 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration	19 10:00 am Romans Bible Study 1:00 pm Bridge Group 6:30 pm Romans Bible Study	20 9:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 11:30 am Abundance Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	21 9:30 am Quilters GROW 5:45 Meal 6:30 Lifetree Café 6:30 Youth Groups 6:45 Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	22 10:45 am Senior Adult Bus Trip 11:30 am Refugee Wellness 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal 7:00 pm FPU	23 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	24 9:00 am Quiet Retreat 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
25 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Community Gathering & Egg Hunt 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells	26 10:00 am Romans Bible Study 6:30 pm Romans Bible Study	27 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 10:00 am Puzzle get together 10:00 am Senior Book Club 6:30 pm Women's Fellowship Group 6:30 pm Men's Pub Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	28 9:30 am Quilters 7:30 Voices of Praise Adult Choir	29 Maundy Thursday 12:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm FPU 7:00 pm Worship	30 Good Friday 12:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship	31 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Easter Vigil



Easter Lilies

If you would like to place a lily in the Church Sanctuary to decorate for the Easter season, complete this form and place it in the offering plate or drop it off

at the church office. Check payable to "St. Philip Lutheran Church" for \$12.50 and note "Easter Lilies" in the memo line. If you would like to donate to the large palms please indicated below.

The deadline is Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25th

Number of Lilies _____ Total \$ _____

Large Palm Donation Total \$ _____

Given in Honor of _____

Given in Memory of _____

By _____

Phone _____

Please print clearly the name(s) will be in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.



919-846-2992
www.St-Philip.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri
9:00 –4:00



Like us on
[Facebook](#)

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
pastorelizabeth@st-philip.org

Vicar Sharon Schulze
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vicar@st-philip.org
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Y'Sang Milo
Custodian

St. Philip Lutheran Church

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REMINDERS:

- ★ Turn off the lights when leaving a room.
- ★ Last to leave? Please secure the doors and check for lights on.
- ★ Wash any cups/dishes & wipe down counters & if dish towels are used, please take them home to launder.
- ★ If you need to leave your vehicle in the parking lot, please let the office know.