



# The Epistle

St. Philip Lutheran Church  
December 2018

## Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I look forward to the month of December there are 4 words that seem to be appropriate for Advent and for us at St. Philip. Promise puts us in mind of the promise revealed to Israel by the Prophets. Hope that comes from having heard the promise is central to Advent. Peace and Joy are the expected result of the coming of the Messiah, Christmas. These words and their themes we will see in symbols, hear in our hymns, be reminded of in lessons, psalms, and prayers, and reflected in our own family and personal preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

Promise surrounds us at St. Philip as we look around us and see the vast wealth of talent and experience that make up our family of faith. Hope for the future is growing as we work together in "Planting Hope" and the call process together. The expectation is one of peace and joy as the result of our efforts and the hand of God at work in and through us. The Word and Sacrament will continually provide direction, energy and inspiration as these efforts will continue far beyond Advent and Christmas. It is my hope that these words will continue to be a part of the way we think of ourselves and our future as a family of faith for a long, long time

I hope you are all as filled with anticipation as I am, as we approach and begin a new church year. I just had to work that fourth word, anticipation, as advent always reminds me of Jefferson Airplane, Heinz ketchup, and patience, with humor. (Hope you can find the connection.)

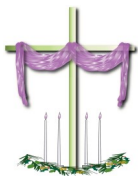
SHALOM,  
Pastor Jim

## Church Events

Dec 1st	Vitality Survey Results Presentation
Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Congregation Forum with Pastor Jim
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Lunch
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner
Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	Congregation Meeting
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Saints & Sinners
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Breakfast
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Worship
4:00	Family Candlelight Service
7:00	Contemporary Candlelight Service
9:00	Traditional Candlelight Service
Dec 30 <sup>th</sup>	One Worship Service of Lessons & Carols

## Message from the Worship & Music Mission Table

Beginning in the season of Advent, the baptismal font will be placed in the alcove between the doors at the entrance to the sanctuary. When we enter it will be one of the first things we see and be a reminder to us of the gift of baptism.



### Preparing

#### Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Crossing Contemporary service at 9:00, will decorate a Jesse tree with ornaments symbolizing the story of redemption from creation through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1 *A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.* Jesse was the father of King David.

The Traditional service at 11:00, will include the decorating of a Chrismon tree. The Chrismons used represent any of the 600 names or titles of Jesus Christ. Join in worship through scripture and song for the telling of the story of the life, work and meaning of the life of Jesus Christ.

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,  
Rodney Hooks, Council President

## Congregation Pastor Forum

### Be prepared for an opportunity!

On December 2nd @ 10:00 in Kepley Hall join the **Congregation Forum with the Pastor**— a time for you, the congregation, and Pastor Jim to have informal conversations.

### Send a Card Sunday

Sunday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, is Card Sunday.

Before and after both services.

We are Planting Hope and Nurturing in a written form.

Send God's Light into the world with a card. We have the cards, postage and will deliver to the Post Office.

Send a card to

- ♥ a member
- ♥ friend
- ♥ military person
- ♥ a neighbor.



### St. Philip Christmas Dinner

December 8th, 2016

Come share a traditional holiday meal and great fellowship!

Bring a white elephant gift to exchange and a big appetite.

The festivities will begin at 6pm.

The cost is \$11 per person.

Please make your reservations with Liese Faircloth or Martha Bouknight by Dec 5<sup>th</sup>  
We hope to see you there!!





## Planting Hope Task Force

Once in a generation does a congregation have the opportunity to rediscover how it can live out its mission from God, discover how God is really working in the congregation, and listen and discern how a changed church can affect the world. This is the time for St. Philip as we launch Planting Hope. We are blessed to have all of the NC ELCA Synod's resources at our disposal for this exciting journey. The Planting Hope process works if we follow the Synod guidelines and allow it to work through God's grace. The Planting Hope Task Force is determined to make it work by engaging every member of our congregation to discern our real purpose and future direction. Planting Hope is the result of the NC ELCA Synod work to design a dynamic 18 to 24 month program to help "declining" Lutheran churches in NC discover the path to long term viability, vitality and sustainability. If we continue to do the same thing over and over and expect a different outcome we will never reach our potential. We need to look at our future in a different way. We can lift up our entire congregation and let God's light shine through all of us, like light shining through a stained glass window. We can then show the world God's love and change the world in the process. So, the purpose of Planting Hope is to help congregations discover and live out their mission from God. We are engaging in a "spiritual transformation" like nothing St. Philip has seen before.

St. Philip was invited as one of 4 congregations in eastern NC to participate in this program funded by an Eli Lilly grant. In April of 2018, Pastor Pam selected 7 members to be the Planting Hope Task Force (two members have since had to step away). The Task Force members are: Mike Fagan (Chair), Linda Colley, Sandy Glass, Joe Edwards and John Sullivan.

Our Triangle Conference Coach is Heidi Kleine from Christ the King. Six Synod advisors are also on the team.

The first Planting Hope Training session with Synod was held on 5/3/18. The Eli Lilly Grant included a Congregational Vitality Survey that was completed by St. Philip (132 responses) in May of 2018. Our Task Force's first meeting was on 7/11/18 and we then engaged in an 8 week Bible study of Acts. On 10/5/18 the Task Force and members of Church Council met to review the results of the Survey. The second training session with Synod was held on 10/6/18. The Task Force met for our first working session on 11/8/18 and our second on 11/15/18.

We have scheduled two meetings to share the results of the Congregational Vitality Survey on 11/30/18 at 7:00 pm and 12/1/18 at 10:00 am in Luther Hall. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend one of these sessions.

Where do we go from here? It is now time to engage the congregation. That means every member of our congregation. We are being guided by God, period, so we do not know where this will lead us. We have no preconceived blueprint. Planting Hope is a specifically structured, unique program designed by the ELCA to help restore vitality and sustainability into congregations. It has a long history of success in this area. You are the key to this success. The Planting Hope Task Force is only the vehicle to get every one of us engaged in our church's new purpose and future.

Welcome to the journey,  
*Planting Hope Task Force*



## 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 one of the worship services on December 24<sup>th</sup>  
and also on**

**Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**



**One Worship Service at 10:00 am**

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

The strength of Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO), in North Carolina comes from the youth themselves. LYO is always youth-planned and youth-led. As adult leaders, we work hard to create an environment that nurtures and grows faith and develops all youth as leaders.

### LYO Assembly 2019

**SAVE the DATE**



**THIS IS ME**

BROKEN AND LOVED,  
ROOTED IN CHRIST  
LIVING IN THE LIGHT

**REGISTRATION  
IS OPEN**

**LYO Assembly 2019**

February 22, 2019 – February 24, 2019 | \$142.00

The [Lutheran Youth Organization](#) (LYO) in of the North Carolina Synod is open to all youth in grades 6-12. Youth are members by virtue of being a member of any NC Synod ELCA congregation.

Every year, Lutheran youth across North Carolina gather in February for an assembly. At LYO Assembly, youth spend time with each other in small groups, singing with the band and growing in faith.

The youth will also enjoy a banquet together, and our youth will choose their theme for the event.

The Offering will be for: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)  
([Click here for more information about LIRS](#))

The 2019 LYO Assembly takes place in Greensboro, February 22–24, 2019, the cost is \$90.00. Contact Cathryn for more information about the LYO Assembly and to register—SOON! [Cathryn@st-philip.org](mailto:Cathryn@st-philip.org)



This week, 26 care packages that were put together by our high school and middle school youth, made their way to stressed out college youth.

We always hope to remind them of the faith family that still cares for and prays for them when they're away.

## High School/College Youth Lock In

December 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm - 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9am

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](mailto:cathryn@st-philip.org)!

**LOCK-IN!**

## Message from Pastor Elizabeth, Director of C.M.S.M. (Children & Middle School Ministries)

In this season of preparation and anticipation, I am pleased to continue serving with you and the children of St Philip. As we travel together through this time of transition, please share with me your hopes and dreams for the future of children's formation at St Philip. We seek to grow in faith, to assist our children as the wonder and wander into the mysteries of Emmanuel, God with us.

Especially this time of year, I love the imagery of a midwife. A midwife is a companion for the process, one who provides support and encouragement, making space for new life. A midwife is observant and present, prepared to assist or access additional resources as needed, but allowing the mother to take the lead, trusting that she knows her way. As a midwife of faith, I recognize that our children know their way to God. They don't need to be delivered to God, they need the opportunity to explore their way to God. And, really, it's not that different for us adults, either. We need the space to grow and explore, together.

### Children's Sunday School

Our children's Sunday School class is excited to be using a curriculum entitled Deep Blue Connects "At Home With God." We're talking about Jesus, his family and our place in God's family. This curriculum is specially designed for an all ages class, which fits us perfectly!

### Kid's Evening for age 3—5th Grade

Join your friends at St Philip for an evening of fun and formation! Saturday December 15, 4:00 pm until 6:30 pm. We will enjoy seasonal activities and fun with pizza at 6:00! RSVP by Sunday December 8 to Pastor Elizabeth.  
[pastorelizabeth@st-philip.org](mailto:pastorelizabeth@st-philip.org).

### Confirmation will begin in January!

Watch for details from Pastor Elizabeth coming soon!



### Christmas Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is set up in the Narthex. Please take a tag and sign your name on the sheet next to the number you chose. The gifts will be delivered to residents at **Families Together**.

The item on the bottom of the tag is the gift request. If you need to make a substitution, or want to add a little something extra, there is basic information on the top of the card.

Gifts need to be wrapped, with the angel tag secured attached. The deadline for dropping them off at church is **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, email [michellehooks3@gmail.com](mailto:michellehooks3@gmail.com)



### Christmas Eve Family Worship

4:00 pm

Beginning outside  
with a live nativity and  
Winterpast Farm's  
animals

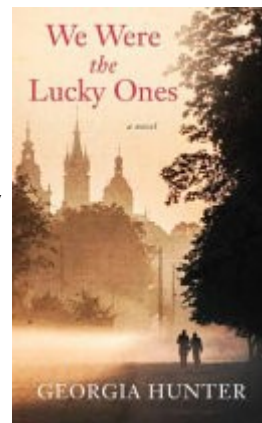


## Senior Adult Book Club

Will NOT meet in December. Picking back up in January we will meet on Tuesday, 1/22 at 10:00 am in the parlor, to discuss *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter.

"It is the spring of 1939, and three generations of the Kurc family are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows ever closer. The talk around the family Seder table is of new babies and budding romance, not of the increasing hardships facing Jews in their hometown of Radom, Poland. But soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable and the Kurc family will be flung to the far corners of the earth, each desperately trying to chart his or her own path toward safety"--

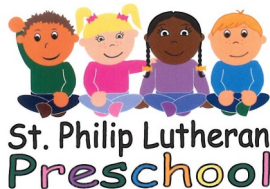
This book is available at the Wake County Library. Everyone is invited to join the group, bring book suggestions with you! Contact [Kathryn Edwards](#) or [Carol Williamson](#) with questions.



## Adult Sunday School Classes

**Faith & Fellowship Class:** This fall we are using the NOOMA series, which is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. Join the conversation in Luther Hall at 10:10 Sunday mornings.

**Augsburg Class:** This fall we are focusing on God's World and God's People by studying with the lectionary series starting with the book of Genesis. Everyone is invited to join the discussions in the Library at 10:10 Sunday mornings.



## St. Philip Lutheran Preschool News

December brings lots of fun, JOY and praise to the preschool classrooms!!

Santa visits the preschool on Friday, December 7 from 11:00am – 1:00pm. There will be lots of games, activities and of course yummy cookies to eat with Santa.

Our children will be singing for the Saints and Sinners on Tuesday, December 11 at 11:15am.

We will have birthday parties for Jesus and share the Christmas story at our Christmas Program on Friday, December 14 at 9:30am in the sanctuary. All are welcome!!

We are blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family and appreciate all you do for us! We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as we reflect upon the greatest gift of all....Jesus Christ!!

In His love and ours, The Preschool



**Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00am-1:00pm**

St. Philip Preschool will be getting a visit from Santa! This will be a time for our preschool families as well as families that might be interested in attending the preschool to come see Santa and have a picture taken, eat some cookies, play games, enjoy activities and take a tour of the classrooms!



## Men's Pub Ministry

Watch the Friday eNews for details about our next get together in December.

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!

Questions? Contact  
Mark Glass at  
[mark.glass@gmail.com](mailto:mark.glass@gmail.com)



## Puzzle Get Together

Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00

Come, relax, and have fun  
completing a puzzle.

Questions? Contact Claire Muller  
at 919- 752-6541 or [claire6078@att.net](mailto:claire6078@att.net)

Hope to see you there!



Saints and Sinners will meet on  
December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM for  
lunch, fellowship, and music.  
The preschool children will bring  
Christmas cheer to us at the  
beginning of our meeting.

After lunch, Dr. Jay Pierson and Ms. Catherine  
Hamner will present a musical program—

A Sentimental Journey of love songs from a by-gone  
era and holiday favorites in our sanctuary. Please  
RSVP to reserve your place for lunch by calling  
Carole Mason at 919-872-1518, by 11/11/18.  
Lunch is \$7.00.

## Ladies Lunch

Will be held on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at  
Nantucket Grill, 1145 Falls River Ave.  
Lunch begins at noon.

Please make your reservation with Claire Muller at  
919- 752-6541 or [claire6078@att.net](mailto:claire6078@att.net)

Hope to see you there!



## Men's Breakfast Club

Will meet on December 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30  
at **iHop** at Six Forks & Sawmill Rd.

Come and enjoy good food  
and fellowship—there's room for you at the table!  
Questions? Contact Frank Bouknight 919-302-  
1812 or [bouknightf@yahoo.com](mailto:bouknightf@yahoo.com)



## Senior Ministry Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am  
in the Music Room.

Come help plan out activities for the fall!

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

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





### **Let's Face It 2018**

With Christmas fast approaching, the Families Together team is committed to going the extra mile to move the families into their own homes in time for the holidays. Please consider supporting our Let's Face It matching campaign to join Families Together in this effort. Our goal between now and the end of the year, is to raise \$150,000. The funds will provide temporary rental assistance, landlord connections, life skills and financial literacy training and a dedicated Mentor Advocate to coach the families over the next year.

New and increased donations will be matched by The Stewards Fund up to \$16,250, and donations of \$1,000 will also be matched by The Leon Levine Foundation tripling the impact of those contributions. By continuing to work together as a community and intensifying our efforts at this important time, we can help parents wrap their children with the love and support needed to build back the family's resilience and become self-sufficient and independent. Please visit our website to give ([www.FamiliesTogetherNC.org](http://www.FamiliesTogetherNC.org)), or reach us by mail at Families Together, P.O. Box 14395, Raleigh, NC 27620. Questions? Email [Jennifer@FamiliesTogetherNC.org](mailto:Jennifer@FamiliesTogetherNC.org) or 919-212-1123 ext. 231. We are sincerely grateful for any support you can provide at this critical time.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

At Families Together we have a long history of providing volunteers meaningful and rewarding ways to help out in our community. When volunteers give their time and their talent, they are increasing our impact on the families we serve. We currently have need for a "pop-up" group who can lend their skills in performing small maintenance jobs for our short-term housing apartments.

Both individual and group volunteers have the opportunity to show people in our community that they are cared for and supported as they begin the process of rebuilding their lives. Visit [www.familiestogethernc.org/volunteer](http://www.familiestogethernc.org/volunteer) to find additional information on how you can get involved.

Attending a new Volunteer Orientation is your first step to getting started. Learn more or sign up for a session here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084bacaf2ca2fa7-families>. Advance registration is required to attend an orientation so we can be properly prepared for you. Please contact Meghan Olesen at [Meghan@FamiliesTogetherNC.org](mailto:Meghan@FamiliesTogetherNC.org) with any volunteer-related questions.

### **Abundance Ministry**



We meet every 1st & 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](mailto:raleighbells@gmail.com).

### **Brown Bag Ministry**

- ♦ BBM meets every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:raleighbells@yahoo.com)



**Brown Bag Ministry**

DAVE RAMSEY'S

## FINANCIAL *Peace* UNIVERSITY

The new year is around the corner. If one of your resolutions is to get out of debt and become totally debt free, what better way to do that than registering and attending Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University.

*The money class that will*  
**CHANGE YOUR LIFE**

Chuck and Cindy Wolfe will be facilitating the 9 week class at St. Philip on Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm starting January 27, 2019.

Sign up here: <http://fpu.com/1029912>

Don't miss this awesome opportunity to learn to tell your money where to go rather than wonder where it went. Get out of debt and learn the importance of Charity giving, Life Insurance, Investments and other important decisions to make with your money.

Stop keeping up with the Jones'... they're broke too. Come to FPU!

### Time & Talent Survey



If you haven't completed your Time & Talent survey, please

[click here](#)

### Called Congregation Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on December 9th beginning at 10:15 for the purpose of approving the 2019 Spending Plan and for Nominations to the Call Committee.



#### Nominations for the Call Committee—

If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the call committee for our next pastor, please complete a form and place it in the red box at the Welcome Center or on the counter in Kepley Hall.

Please check with the person you are nominating prior to submitting their name. You may nominate yourself.

The call committee should reflect a cross-section of the congregation with regard to age, gender, length of membership, and participation in various ministries. All nominees should be active, communing, contributing members, who can find the necessary time to devote to the work of the call process.

Each member should have the ability to work as part of a team to discern God's will for the congregation.

Nominations will be accepted by form through December 2. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the Congregational Meeting on December 9th.

*The election of the call committee will take place on December 16th.*

Questions? Contact Rodney Hooks, Council President at [rhooks496@gmail.com](mailto:rhooks496@gmail.com).



## St. Philip Congregation Council Members

Name	Council Position	Email	Term	
Rev. Jim Huffman	Interim Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastor@st-philip.org">pastor@st-philip.org</a>		
Mark Andrews		<a href="mailto:mark@tmeinvestments.com">mark@tmeinvestments.com</a>	2019	2021
Mike Davis		<a href="mailto:mdavis6364@gmail.com">mdavis6364@gmail.com</a>	2019	2021
Sandy Glass		<a href="mailto:Mark.glass@gmail.com">Mark.glass@gmail.com</a>	2018	2020
Don Helmey		<a href="mailto:dhelmey@earthlink.net">dhelmey@earthlink.net</a>	2017	2019
Dawn Kanupp		<a href="mailto:dawnmmorton@yahoo.com">dawnmmorton@yahoo.com</a>	2019	2021
Grace Kindl	Youth Representative	<a href="mailto:gksweetie@bellsouth.net">gksweetie@bellsouth.net</a>	2019	2019
Mike Maness		<a href="mailto:mikeandlois@bellsouth.net">mikeandlois@bellsouth.net</a>	2017	2019
Crystal Ridenhour		<a href="mailto:crystalridenhour@gmail.com">crystalridenhour@gmail.com</a>	2018	2020
Ed Seames		<a href="mailto:evseames@aol.com">evseames@aol.com</a>	2019	2021
John Sullivan		<a href="mailto:jsull77@gmail.com">jsull77@gmail.com</a>	2017	2019
Mark Tarquinio		<a href="mailto:woodyardcarol@att.net">woodyardcarol@att.net</a>	2018	2020
Betty Wahlstrom		<a href="mailto:bwahl0256@gmail.com">bwahl0256@gmail.com</a>	2017	2019
Carol Williams		<a href="mailto:just1carol@gmail.com">just1carol@gmail.com</a>	2018	2020

### Appointed Positions

Louise Bouknight	Secretary	<a href="mailto:bouknightl@yahoo.com">bouknightl@yahoo.com</a>
Liese Faircloth	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:lbfaircloth@yahoo.com">lbfaircloth@yahoo.com</a>
Jane Gue	Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:admin@st-philip.org">admin@st-philip.org</a>

### Welcoming Statement

This is the Welcoming statement the Church Council approved to send to the Congregation to vote on at the Annual Congregation meeting on 1/27/19.

As a community of God's love and grace, we welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of age, race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or relationship status, We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, legal status, political perspectives, socio-economic circumstances, or anything else that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.



### New Church App for your phones!

The church's database that has been in place for the past few years, Elexio, has moved to a new, 'google-like', easier to use and manage format. We are working to fine tune the database for St. Philip.

There is a new App to download for your devices from the App store, the name is [Elexio Community](#). You will be able to continue to use it as a member directory, checking in to worship and other events at church and even see your contribution statement—using your current log-in user & password.

There will be more information coming, but feel free to download the app now—if you have questions or need a change made please contact Jane in the church office 919-846-2992 or [admin@st-philip.org](mailto:admin@st-philip.org).



## THE CALL PROCESS AT-A-GLANCE

### **PASTORAL TRANSITION AND CLOSURE**

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#### ***Transition***

- ☒ Council receives resignation of the pastor and chair of council contacts bishop
- ☒ Council chair is given *"Call Process Booklets"* for guidance in the process
- ☒ Council/Congregation brings about appropriate closure with resigning pastor
- ☒ Council meets with bishop's staff person assigned to call process 10/14/18
- ☒ Council and bishop's office establish an interim ministry

#### ***Study***

- ☒ Plan for congregational study
- ☐ Call committee is \_\_\_\_\_ elected according to the congregation's constitution and installation planned
- ☒ Bishop's staff person meets with entire congregation for study 11/3/18
- ☐ Congregation study report received by council and shared with congregation \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Ministry Site Profile (MSP)***

- ☐ Ministry Site Profile task force chairperson and task force appointed
- ☐ Task force chairperson leads council input session
- ☐ Ministry Site Profile completed \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Ministry Site Profile shared with congregation

### **SELECTING A PASTOR**

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- ☐ Call committee is trained using Ministry Site Profile \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Call committee seeks God's guidance as they begin interview process for pastor
- ☐ Call committee receives rostered leader profiles from bishop's office
- ☐ Call committee makes contact with candidates shortly after rostered leader profiles are supplied through bishop's office
- ☐ Call committee continues the interview process keeping in frequent contact with congregation council, congregation and bishop's staff person
- ☐ Call committee narrows selection to one candidate, whom they believe has been led to them by God, and asks that person to be the primary candidate

### **EXTENDING A CALL**

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- ☐ Call committee recommends primary candidate to the Congregation Council
- ☐ Council meets with the candidate and makes a recommendation to extend call
- ☐ Congregational meeting is set.
- ☐ Congregation meets the candidate
- ☐ Congregation votes to extend the call and approves compensation and benefits
- ☐ Pastor discerns and accepts the call
- ☐ Plans are made to say farewell to interim pastor and welcome the new pastor

### **WELCOMING AND SUPPORTING THE NEW PASTOR**

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- ☐ Installation arranged with conference dean
- ☐ Mutual Ministry team is formed/approved

## Message from the Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the June Epistle we brought to your attention that our income had gotten behind plan more than in previous years. Our expenses were below plan also, but not to the same degree as income. We said that the Finance Committee and Council would be monitoring the situation closely. In mid-August, we sent a letter to all members communicating our continuing concern regarding our finances and that we were taking steps to reduce expenses for the remainder of the year. These steps have been effective in preventing us from getting even further behind; however, giving has not increased enough to make meaningful progress in reducing the shortfall between income and expenses.

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.

However, unless we get that strong surge in income as we close out the year and without a special effort, it appears we could fall as much as \$70,000 short of balancing income and expenses, including setting aside much-needed reserves to maintain our facilities. We want to make sure we meet all our obligations, continue our important ministries,

set money aside to maintain our facilities and start 2019 on solid footing. Last year we were unable to fully fund our reserves which makes it doubly important to do so this year.

Therefore, we are again announcing a special catch up campaign to accomplish the above, with the goal of eliminating the potential \$70,000 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 will be envelopes for your use in the narthex and in the back 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.

Blessings,  
Jim Beck

Giving			
	Actual	Plan	%
October 2018	\$33,737	\$47,903	70%
Year to Date	\$363,826	\$485,515	75%

### October 2018 Financial Summary

Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
<b>Income</b>						
General Fund	\$31,889	\$ 38,835	82%	\$331,183	\$388,834	85%
Other Income	\$ 1,849	\$ 9,067	20%	\$ 32,644	\$ 97,161	34%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$33,737</b>	<b>\$ 47,903</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>\$363,826</b>	<b>\$485,515</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 36,736</b>	<b>\$ 47,871</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>\$411,184</b>	<b>\$487,119</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (2,998)</b>	<b>\$ 32</b>		<b>\$ (47,358)</b>	<b>\$ (1,604)</b>	

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



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 10:00 am Vitality Survey Results Presentation 7:00 pm AA
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Congregation Forum 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 5:00 pm Handbells 5:30 pm Personnel 6:30 pm Nurture Relationships Table 6:30 pm Worship & Music Mission Table Mtg.	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Morning Bible Study	<b>4</b> 1:30 am Abundance Ministry 6:30 pm Nurture Relationships Table 7:00 pm Property Team 7:00 pm Finance & Responding	<b>5</b> 10:00 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:00 am Staff 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Youth Groups 6:45 pm Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 pm Voices of Praise	<b>6</b> 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 6:00 pm Christmas Dinner 7:00 pm AA
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Congregational 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 7:00 pm RAFA Concert	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Morning Bible Study	<b>11</b> 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 6:30 pm Nurture Relationships Table 7:00 pm Preschool Board	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Quilting 10:00 am Staff 6:30 pm Youth Groups 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:45 pm Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 pm Voices of Praise	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Preschool Christmas Program 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	<b>15</b> 12:00 pm Cantata Choir Practice 4:00 pm Kid's Evening 7:00 pm AA
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Election of Call Committee 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 5:00 pm Handbells	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Morning Bible Study	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Puzzle Get together 11:30 am Abundance Ministry	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Youth Groups 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:45 pm Joyful Noise Kids Choir 7:30 pm Voices of Praise	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Service 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship 5:00 pm Handbells	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Morning Bible Study  Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 Family 7:00 Contemporary 9:00 Traditional	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Crossing Rehearsal 7:00 pm High School & College Youth Lock in	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:00 Lessons & Carols Worship 1:00 pm Restoration Ministry Worship	<b>31</b>					





## 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 19<sup>th</sup>*

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.*

**Rev. Jim Huffman**  
Interim Pastor  
[pastor@st-philip.org](mailto:pastor@st-philip.org)

**Rev. Elizabeth Neely**  
Director of Children &  
Middle School Ministries  
[pastorelizabeth@st-philip.org](mailto:pastorelizabeth@st-philip.org)

**Cathryn Hewett**  
Director of High School  
& Transitional Ministries  
[cathryn@st-philip.org](mailto:cathryn@st-philip.org)

**Reagan Chuhran**  
Organist/Pianist

**Dr. Jay Pierson**  
Choir Director

**Jane Gue**  
Office Administrator  
[admin@st-philip.org](mailto:admin@st-philip.org)

**Y'Sang Milo**  
Custodian

**919-846-2992**  
**[www.St-Philip.org](http://www.St-Philip.org)**

**Office Hours:**  
Mon-Fri  
9:00 – 4:00

Like us on  
[Facebook](#)



## St. Philip Lutheran Church

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

[www.St-Philip.org](http://www.St-Philip.org)



## Blood Drive

Helping out with the blood drive was an awesome experience! As someone who's anemic and can't give blood, it was an awesome feeling to know I got to make a difference in someone's life through helping to run a blood drive. The staff was extremely helpful and kind to me and Katie as we set up, and seeing all the members coming in to give blood with a smile on their faces put a smile on my face! It was a really good time and I'm very thankful for the opportunity. ~Thea Barrett

**Mark your calendars!**  
**Our next scheduled blood drive is**  
**March 31st!!**

