



The Epistle

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2021

Pastor's Message

July is the month we celebrate our nation's independence from Great Britain. July 4th is the date, of course, and it is often associated with baseball, hot dogs, fireworks, and American flags. I love all those things and so much more about America.

The first reason I love our country is because, quite simply, it is home. It is all I have ever known (apart from brief visits to other countries). I love our mountains and beaches and plains. I love our colleges and universities. I love our professional and collegiate sports. I love our art and music and culture and museums. I love our history (some horrible periods notwithstanding). I love our people. And I love the freedoms and opportunities our nation affords us. No wonder so many people around the world want to come here and make this their home. I often tear up at the playing of our national anthem when one of our Olympians is awarded a gold medal. Hopefully, that will happen often at this summer's upcoming Olympics.

The second reason I love America is because of our founding documents. In my opinion, they are historically brilliant. From the Declaration of Independence to the Constitution to the Bill of Rights. I remember being fascinated by the Federalist Papers when studying them in college. Not only are the words and phrases inspirational and moving, but they were hammered out carefully in a spirit of hard-fought compromise. To attempt to strike a balance between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches – with an accompanying system of checks and balances – is a remarkable development in the history of world government. The effort to be fair in representation which resulted in a two-chamber Congress (the House of Representatives and the Senate) is also a stroke of brilliance.

Many of us get frustrated with the perpetual gridlock in government, but to me that just indicates that we

are gridlocked as a people – not because our system is inherently flawed. In a polarized society such as ours, it would make sense that we would elect polarizing figures.

It would be nice to have politicians willing to work “across the aisle,” and hopefully some moderate voices would soon be able to do that. But I’ve always thought our issues as Americans – not entirely, but in large measure -- have more to do with the state of our hearts rather than the wording of our founding documents. The historical oppression of women and racial and sexual minorities in our nation is a glaring stain on our legacy, to be sure. Forbidding women the right to vote, enslaving African-Americans, and the near genocide of the American Indian are horrific chapters in our nation's history. But the problem is not in our ideals as much as it is in the failure to apply those ideals equitably. In other words, the sentiment “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” (from the Declaration of Independence) is noble and worthy; the problem is that we have defined “men” too narrowly (meaning only white, land-owning men at the time). But change “men” to “people” – at least in our understanding, if not in the document itself – and you have an unparalleled national founding document.

The last reason I love our nation (and I'm painting with broad brushes here in this column) can be summed up in the phrase “at least we're trying.” I read an article a year or so ago which pointed out that – despite all the turmoil and negativity and injustice in our society – that America alone is trying to build a diverse, inclusive democracy. The author pointed out that most other nations are highly homogenous and are content to remain that way. No other nation welcomes all types of people the way America does.

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Most other countries try to limit the number and influence of those it considers outside its national identity. Only America tries to welcome everyone and then tries to democratically make sense of it. The author also pointed out that only America tries to honor its diversity by allowing hyphenated identities. For example, we have African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Jewish-Americans, etc. But other countries don't have that. You don't hear about Anglo-Chinese, African-Hungarians, or Jewish-Bolivians, for example. Only America seeks to honor people's racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, while at the same time affirming their American identity. E Pluribus Unum: "out of many, one." We are constantly, tirelessly chasing after the "one," while not negating the "many." One could argue no other nation is even making an attempt at that. You could certainly do a lot worse. We have a long way to go in many ways. And yet we have also come a mighty long way. When asked whether America had formed a monarchy or a republic (a representative form of democracy), Benjamin Franklin replied, "A republic...if you can keep it." We've narrowly been able to keep it down through the generations. Here's to hoping we can always do so.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tim



Serving on a Sunday Morning

11:00 Service

As we're coming back to worship gathering inside, we have lots of serving opportunities on Sunday mornings both in-person and online!

If you would like to help make Sundays possible, there's a range of roles to be filled:

- Greeters (Worship &/or Drive up Communion)
- Parking Team (Worship &/or Drive through Communion)
- Communion Assistant
- Check-In
- Set Up or Tear Down (Altar & Communion)
- Musicians
- A/V & Broadcasting
- Online or in person: Lectors
- Online: Welcoming & replying to FB & Zoom

You are invited to sign up for a [role here](#)

If you have questions or aren't sure where would be the best place to serve, you can contact the office. admin@st-philip.org

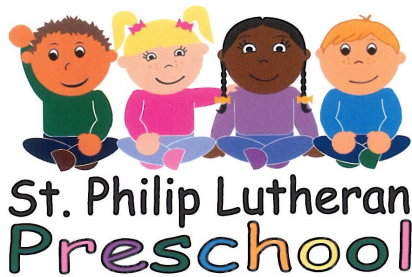


9:00 Crossing Contemporary Service

The worship team invites anyone who is interested in leading worship at the 9:00 am Sunday morning worship services, to take this short interest survey.

There are several opportunities depending on your interest - musically or operating the sound/visual board to name a couple of roles.

At this time we are starting with finding out who may be interested, and setting up training times for you. Please take this survey: [Crossing Survey](#)



Although, the preschool is closed for the summer...we are busy at work!! We would love for you to spread the word about our loving and caring preschool!!

If you have a little one, friend or family that may be looking for a preschool this fall, we still have some openings.

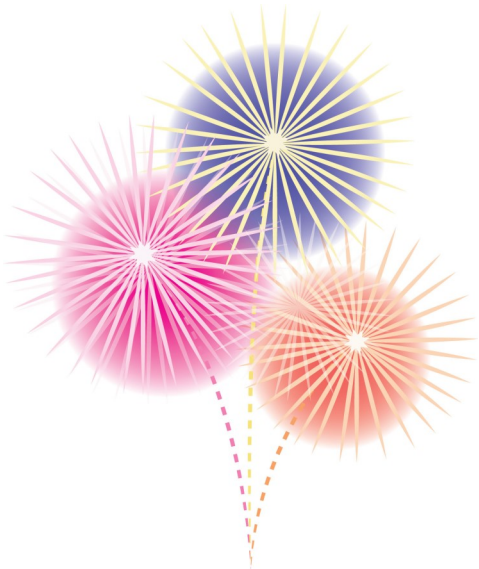
Please visit st-philip.org/preschool for more information about our program and the registration form. You may also call Leigh Anne Barham at 919-818-9585 for a tour or information. As always, thank you St. Philip for opening your doors and loving us!!



Children Ministry News

Children's Chat every week, the link will be shared with the Sunday morning worship information.

Our children will continue to receive monthly mailings from St. Philip with books, stickers, activities to do with their parents and more!
Keep your eyes peeled for your packages kiddos!!



The Middle School & High School Youth Groups will not meet over the summer.

BUT

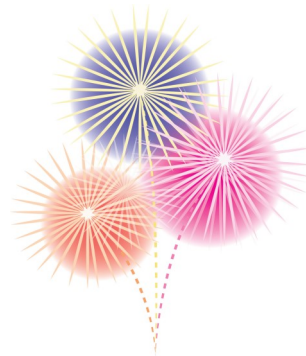
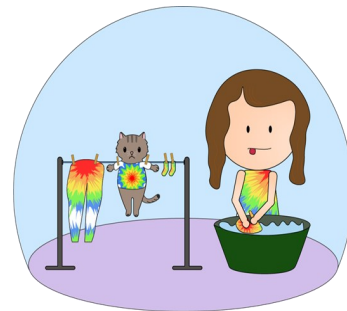
Watch for special events to participate in from Cathryn!

Confirmation will be on recess until September

Let's get together to do some tie dying!

**Saturday, July 17th @ 10:00 am in
Luther Hall**

Would your child or youth be interested in tie dying t-shirts at St. Philip? Contact Cathryn for more information or to let us know you're coming! cathryn@st-philip.org



North Carolina Synod Assembly 2021

“STRENGTH for the Journey”

Mark 2:1-12

Bishop Tim Smith graciously excepted another six years term as our ELCA Synod Bishop. There were several more elections that took place. Lots of business was handled with great efficiency everything was via ZOOM.

Our Lois Knauff's father was remembered with other pastors who passed on in 2019-20. Rev. Luther Lavern Knauff died at the age of 97 and was a Pastor for 74 years.

We heard several mission talks which were all uplifting.

There were four devotions on Mark 2:1-2. All of which were very spiritual uplifting devotions. Remembering from this passage: Everyone has a mat. Who is on your mat? Who is carrying your mat? Jesus says take up your mat, now you are healed.

We had two special services. One of which was a Moravian Love Feast. Everyone that registered received a care package to sustain us during our voting and services Moravian Cookies, coffee, candy and S'Mores from Camp Agape' Kure Beach Ministries and more from other partners.

www.nclutheran.org You can go to hear the 2021 NC Synod Assembly, lots of information on this website which you might be of interest.

“Be the LIGHT”

It was an honor to represent St. Philip, at this assembly.

Respectfully Submitted by Julie Helmey & Shelley Bower

Message from the Lutheran Coalition of Habitat for Humanity

This note is to update you on the exciting plans for the next Building Independence project and our upcoming Lutheran Build.



Over the past few weeks, we have had some great conversations about the next steps with Building Independence 2.0. Habitat Wake and Lutheran Services Carolinas are now exploring the concept of a homeownership model for the most abled persons with developmental disabilities. This team visited a uniquely designed Habitat project in Orange County that could be a model. In essence, the partnership is exploring a one story 6-8 unit “tiny home” townhome project of approximately 700 square feet each at our Lake Wheeler neighborhood, which also contains the inaugural Building Independence project. The focus is to develop a strong model and then replicate it not only in Habitat Wake, but other Habitat affiliates across Lutheran Services footprint. All of this sounds wonderful but is taking time.

The recommendation now is to invite the Lutheran Coalition to keep the plan of building in 2021-2022, but build a traditional Habitat home. We have some exciting Habitat projects in Cary and Apex, which we think Christ the King, Resurrection, Jordan, and Abiding Presence would particularly be very excited about. We are building 7 homes in Cary later this year and early next year. We are also building 9 homes in Apex roughly the same time frame. The thought is to rally the Lutheran Coalition around one of those homes as its 2021-2022 project and then rally the Lutheran Coalition around Building Independence 2.0 as its 2022-2023 project.

Mark Glass is St. Philip's representative with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, please contact him with questions or for more information at Mark.Glass@gmail.com.

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!

Summer Schedule

Voices of Praise Adult Choir

The choir will sing in Sunday traditional services on the first Sunday of the month

Rehearsal at 7:00 pm on July 28 Wednesday for August 1st

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY TO SERVE? Do you enjoy organizing?



Our **St. Philip Library**
Needs Help!

Do you have fun looking through books—exploring & reading a variety of material centered around Christianity?

The Library is an important resource at St. Philip that needs to be tended to! Folks donate their books to share, the donations need to be sorted out to add to the shelves & to check for duplicates. Right now there are several stacks that need to be organized.

Please contact Jane in the office to learn more about the library and perhaps volunteer to come in to see more! admin@st-philip.org 919-846-2992

SAVE THE DATE

September 25th !

for a SPECIAL presentation
Important for you & your family
Stay tuned....details to follow!

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast—

We're getting together in person again!

At iHop on Six
Forks

Tuesday 7/20/21
at 9:30 am



Spread the word and invite a friend for
this casual time of fellowship and
conversation!

Contact Frank Bouknight for more
information. bouknightf@yahoo.com or
919-302-1812

St Philip Softball

Come on out to watch and cheer our team ! Play off
Games begin the week of July 12! At Bay Leaf Baptist
Church. Bay Leaf Baptist is north of I 540 off Possum
Track Trail off Six Forks. . [Click Here for Map.](#)



September 14th at 11:00 Plan on getting together again!

A special meal & program is being planned for our gathering
together again, that we know everyone will enjoy!

Fellowship, Food, and Fun!

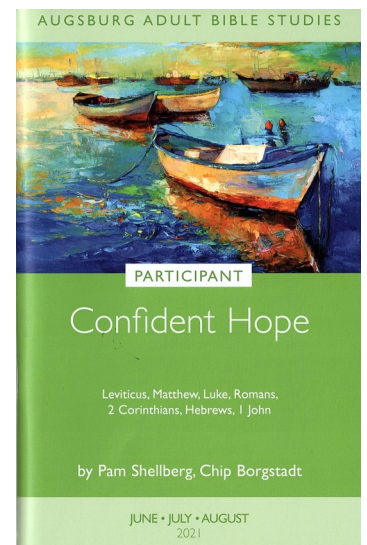
Watch for more details to come over the summer!

Have you thought of some programs you'd like to see come to a
Saints and Sinners luncheon? Let Frank know at
919-302-1812 or bouknightf@yahoo.com

Augsburg Sunday School Class

We will be meeting in person again! Starting Sunday morning, 7/11/21 at 10:00 in the Music Room. The class will use the Bible study guide, *Confident Hope*. 'Threads of faith and hope in God's promises are woven throughout the scriptures. The class will engage the message of Jesus and the witness of the early Christian community, they will hear with confident hope that the good news of God's love for all people in Jesus Christ is also theirs.'

This topical Bible study will use texts from Leviticus, Matthew, Luke, 2 Corinthians, and more to inform one's faith and discipleship in daily life. This class is an opportunity to deepen and share your faith with your brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Philip. Class facilitation is rotated among the members and meets in the Music Room. All are welcome!





St. Philip Social Justice ministry would like to start brainstorming what our next will be.

Here is the link for the ["What Should Social Justice Ministry Tackle Next?"](#) Survey. Please prayerfully consider getting involved!

Contact Angela Smedley for more information.
angelamsmedley@gmail.com



**THE BLOOD
CONNECTION**
Your Community Blood Center

Blood Drive

Rise Against Hunger - Raleigh

3200 Wellington Ct;
Suite 112
Raleigh, NC 27615

07/17/2021 | 10:00 AM–03:00 PM

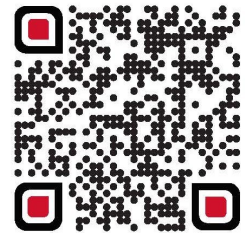
To make an appointment, please scan the QR Code and search for the Sponsor Code 6534.

A \$20 charitable donation will be made for every blood donor!

**Please
SIGN UP
ASAP!**



Scan to make
an appointment!



Let's do this!!



Brown Bag Ministry is Back! 🍌

We are so excited to announce that Brown Bag Ministry at St. Philip is starting back up!

We meet to pack 500 lunches and deliver them to a nearby refugee community.

Please come join us on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays monthly at 10:00 am until 12 noon.

We will need your help and also fruit! 🍎 🍌 🍊

Questions? Contact Stacey Bell at raleighbells@gmail.com



Thank you, United Way!

Families Together is excited to share that we have been awarded two grants from United Way of the Greater Triangle (UWGT). The first award is the Healthy Families Grant of \$150,000 which is renewable for another year if funds allow. Our second award is the Anti-Racism Accelerator Grant of \$25,000. We were one of 284 applicants to apply for UWGT funding this year and are honored to be among the 85 local nonprofits awarded grants. The Healthy Families Grant will go towards expanding our Affordable Housing Initiative and helping families stabilize in their new homes by providing up to a year of one-on-one counselling and case management, behavioral health support, connections to community resources, and life skills workshops. Additionally, families will have access to specialized financial health and employment support from our team, including credit repair, debt reduction, budgeting support, resume writing support, mock interviews, and employment connections.

2021 Spring Campaign

Families Together's Spring Campaign ended on May 31st and we are incredibly lucky to have had such amazing support from our church partners! Families Together raised a total of \$357,687.96 with \$97,917.58 coming from YOU! We cannot thank you enough for supporting Families Together at such an incredibly challenging time in lives of your churches and congregations. This support will make a tangible impact on the lives of the families we serve.

Emergency Housing Expansion

After months of planning, Families Together is excited to announce that we will be breaking ground on one of our big goals of this year's campaign: expanding our Emergency Shelter Units. The shelter provides immediate housing for families that are unsheltered (i.e. sleeping in cars or outside) along with intensive crisis and case management from our team until permanent housing is obtained. The goal of this project is to increase our shelter capacity from six units to 10 private apartment units by building a two-story addition on one of the two quads owned by Families Together.

The expansion will enable FT to accommodate various family makeups with six 3-bedroom units, three 2-bedroom units and an efficiency that can be converted to a training space or children's playroom when not needed for shelter. Two of the 2-bedroom units will be able to be adjoined creating a 4-bedroom unit when needed for a large family. One of the new 2-bedroom units will be wheelchair accessible.

Volunteers Needed

Do you have a green thumb and love to garden? If so, we would love to have you volunteer in our community garden. We are looking for individuals to come to our location in East Raleigh and water (you can either pick a day and water the garden that same day every week or come multiple times a week). If you are interested, or know anybody who may be, please reach out to martinique@famielstogethernc.org for more information.



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



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

God's work.
Our hands.

September 12, 2021

Stewardship Focus:

A Partnership: Lutherans & Thrivent



In 1917 the Lutheran Brotherhood by and for the benefit of Lutherans and Lutheran Churches. Thrivent is a membership-owned,

holistic financial services organization that is committed to providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking, and generosity programs to help people make the most of all they've been given.

For over 100 years, Thrivent has helped people build their financial futures and live more generous lives. Today, we offer a full range of expert financial solutions, serving over 2 million clients, as well as the communities in which they live and work.

Several St. Philip members who are Thrivent members have applied for special project grants to be used at St. Philip. These grants have been used for a variety of ministry support from the Quilters' supplies to our children & youth ministries.

Watch your St. Philip news for a special invitation to a gathering of Lutherans to learn more about our opportunities with Thrivent.

For more information about Thrivent visit:

Thrivent.com

Message from the Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In May, our income was down a bit...and below budget for the first time this year. We remain in good shape however and we just ask everyone to continue your giving during the summer months when our income has tended to drop a bit in past years.

For the month, total income was \$38,167, or \$6,477 below plan, while expenses were \$39,066, or \$3,367 better than plan. Year-to-date through May, our income was \$260,760, or \$34,963 above plan. Expenses totaled \$204,042 and were \$33,515 under plan. For the year, income exceeded expenses by \$56,717.

Thank you again for your continued generosity to the ministries at St. Philip!

Blessings,
Jim Beck, Finance Chair

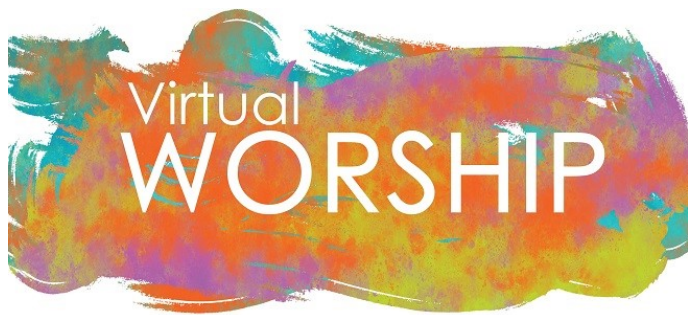


Giving				<div>May 2021 Financial Summary</div>		
	Actual	Plan	%			
May 2021	\$38,167	\$44,644	85%			
Year to Date	\$260,760	\$225,797	115%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$38,127	\$ 39,215	97%	\$260,550	\$198,652	131%
Other Income	\$ 40	\$ 5,429	1%	\$ 210	\$27,145	1%
Total Income	\$38,167	\$ 44,644	85%	\$260,760	\$225,797	115%
Expenses						
	\$ 39,066	\$ 42,433	92%	\$204,042	\$237,558	86%
Net Gain/(Loss)						
	\$ (899)	\$ 2,211		\$ 56,717	\$ (11,761)	

The Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$541,057



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Softball game	2	3 7:00 pm AA
4 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Virtual Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration worship	5 Office Closed	6 7:00 pm Preschool Board	7	8 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA	9 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	10 10:00 am Brown Bag 7:00 pm AA
11 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration worship	12 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	13 11:00 am Staff	14	15 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA	16 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	17 10:00 am Blood Drive 7:00 pm AA
18 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration worship	19	20 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Fellowship	21	22 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA	23 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	24 10:00 am Brown Bag 7:00 pm AA
25 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration worship	26	27 11:00 am Staff	28 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	29 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA	30	31



Sunday Worship Online

Crossing at 9:00am on [Facebook Live](#)

Traditional 11:00am on [Facebook Live](#) & Zoom

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/480739190>

(same link each week)

Dial in Number: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 480 739 190

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,480739190#

Follow along with the Bulletin & Music that is sent out in a Sunday morning email.

Listen on your phone: 857-385-7788

You can also view a worship service at anytime on [Facebook](#)

Rev. Tim Poston

Pastor

pastor@st-philip.org

Cathryn Hewett

Director of Faith Formation

cathryn@st-philip.org

Reagan Wang

Organist/Pianist

fyi

Bob Petters

Choir Director

Jane Gue

Office Administrator

admin@st-philip.org

Y'Sang Milo

Custodian

919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org

Office Hours:

Mon Tues & Fri

9:00 – 4:00

Wed & Thurs (Virtual)

9:00 – 4:00

[Facebook](#)

St. Philip Lutheran
Church, Raleigh



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@St_PhilipELCA



Instagram
stplcraleigh



St. Philip Lutheran Church

7304 Falls of Neuse Road

Raleigh, NC 27615

919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org

HOLY COMMUNION IS SERVED SUNDAY

12:30-1:00

DRIVE THROUGH

JULY 4, AUGUST 1

