

The Epistle

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2021

Pastor's Message

I discovered something while filing my taxes back in May, and that is that for the first time ever, I had tithed (meaning given away 10%) of my gross income. I had never done that before. I had tithed off my net income but never my gross. An ironic twist is that I didn't set out to achieve that – it was never a goal. I just began being more generous with my giving in general and gave to a wider set of charities than before. Most of my tithe went to the church (here at St. Philip), but a significant portion went to other charities and causes. When I looked over the list of organizations to whom I had given, a thought occurred to me: when we discuss financial giving or tithing, as Christians, we are apt to assess our stewardship by how much we give to our home church. But we almost never think about – or talk about – the other worthwhile charities that are out there. Think about it: almost every Stewardship committee assesses people's stewardship of their financial resources by how much they give to the church. That makes sense, to a degree, since that's the only data we have as a church. We don't know how much people give to other charities and causes. It could be that people have grown in their generosity in wider ways than we will ever know. And, therefore, we ought to acknowledge a simple fact: that most everyone's discipleship (and therefore, spiritual growth) occurs outside the church building and apart from the Sunday morning worship hour.

All of us spend most of our lives apart from our church building and away from each other.

Therefore, our discipleship and stewardship – apart from the other “fruit of the Spirit” the Apostle Paul discusses in Galatians 5: verses 22 and 23 – really takes place out in the world, apart from where our church family can see. I guess what I'm trying to say is that the metric we use to assess or judge our faithfulness, kindness, generosity, and growth is always a church metric. And yet most of our lives are lived outside church.

So, I thought it might be nice to acknowledge and celebrate the impact that our Christian faith has outside the church, out in the world, by compiling a list of many of the charities to which we donate. I'll go first. Without mentioning amounts (and many of my gifts were of smaller amounts), I gave to the Food Bank of Eastern and Central NC, the Interfaith Food Shuttle, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, UNICEF, Lutheran Services Carolinas, Agape/Kure Beach ministries, the International Rescue Committee, Families Together, the Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women, and a UN Refugee Agency, among others. Then I thought, I can't imagine the number of charities we here at St. Philip have given to, apart from our giving to the church. So, I thought I would invite all of us, if you feel comfortable, to share anonymously some of the charities to which you donate, without mentioning the amounts of your various gifts. That way, we could all acknowledge and celebrate our calling to serve this world so widely.

Continued....

Continued...

Towards that end, here is a link you can use to submit some of the recipient organizations to which you give: [\[click here\]](#). Again, please make submissions only if you feel comfortable.

And you need not mention every cause to which you give. This will be done anonymously, meaning we will not publish any names or amounts of gifts given. We seek only a partial list of all the charitable organizations to which we all give. When we publish the results in next month's Epistle, we can celebrate our calling, our discipleship, our stewardship, and ultimately our God. For it is He who gives us everything, and who therefore enables our faithful generosity. I can't wait to see some of St. Philip's impact on the broader community and world. I thank you in advance for prayerfully considering this request.

Save the date / times: The Pastor's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 10:30am – and Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Music Room thereafter. We are currently looking at some options for other programming on Wednesday evenings. So, stay tuned for further details. I have decided to begin the New Testament book of Acts again, from the beginning (for Pastor's Bible Study). We only made it to chapter three or so before the pandemic shut us down, and I doubt anyone remembers what we covered anyway from 18 months ago. Plus, we hope we'll have new people join us, so this way we can all start together from the same place. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday mornings and evenings in the fall.

Yours in gratitude,
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 Assistant
- Check-In
- Set Up or Tear Down (Altar & Communion)
- Musicians
- A/V & Broadcasting
- Lectors
- Online: Welcoming & replying to FB & Zoom

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

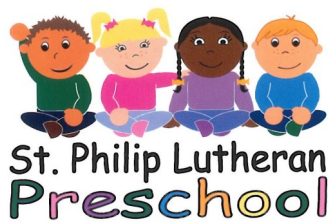
If you have questions or aren't sure where would be the best place to serve, you can contact the office. admin@st-philip.org

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](#)



St. Philip Lutheran Preschool begins its 39th year in September! Our goal is to present a program of art, music and creative play that encourages the growth and development of each child in a Christian environment that is loving and nurturing. We believe each child is unique and special so the curriculum is based on the premise that children learn in a variety of ways, at different speeds and with different experiential backgrounds provided by their parents. Our teachers strive to make their classrooms interesting, inviting and age appropriate. We serve preschoolers ages 2-5 with a cut-off date of October 16th from September through May in a half-day program.

The staff is excited and looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year **which starts on September 7, 2021.** If you have a little one, friend or family that may be looking for a preschool this fall, we do have openings in some of the classes.

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

As always, we thank you for opening your doors and hearts to 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 in August.

BUT

Watch for special events to participate in from Cathryn!

Confirmation will be on recess until September

Children & Youth & Families So much fun tie dying!

On Saturday July 17th, several of us met to tie dye t-shirts and catch up with each other.

We created masterpieces and talked about how God's favorite color is ALL of the colors!



SAVE THE DATE

Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials

A special presentation important for you and your family.

September 25th @ 10:00 am

Hosted by the Stewardship Committee

Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials

Join us on Saturday Sept 25th for a coffee social starting at 9:30am and learn about "Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials" at 10am. Thrivent representatives will cover key areas one should prepare for and think through when considering passing on your estate to a spouse, children, other loved ones, or charities. Key information will be shared also in an open Q and A forum at the end.

Presenters

Kinnon Tatum is a Financial Professional with Thrivent who is passionate about guiding friends and family in NC and surrounding areas make the most of what they have been given. A well rounded graduate from the University of Notre Dame and former NFL player with the Carolina Panthers, Kinnon has found his niche providing his growing network with insurance protection and financial planning for their best years ahead.

Michael McGlinsky is an experienced Financial Professional of over 16 years and currently partners and supports area professionals across NC as the Regional Director for Thrivent Financial. He enjoys his family, golf and is engaged in his church in Apex, NC. He has many designations including the CFP (Certified Financial Planner) RICP (Retirement Income Certified Professional, ChFC (Chartered Financial Consultant) and FIC (Fraternal Insurance Counselor). His passion is assisting others with Financial Clarity and a plan for their future.

Seating is limited—register early!

Please RSVP here: [RSVP](#)

or call the Church Office

A Partnership—Lutherans & Thrivent

The company now called Thrivent has a long history dating back to 1902. The two member-owned Fraternal Benefit Societies that merged in 2003 to form Thrivent are: Lutheran Brotherhood (est. 1917) and Aid Association for Lutherans (est. 1902).

Thrivent is now a Fortune 500 company continuing the tradition of service to its members and the Lutheran Church and community. Thrivent offers a full range of expert financial solutions, serving over 2 million clients, as well as the communities in which they live and work.

Our Stewardship Committee is proud to partner with Thrivent in offering a special invitation to a gathering of Lutherans to learn more about opportunities with Thrivent for individuals and your church.

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!

Voices of Praise Adult Choir

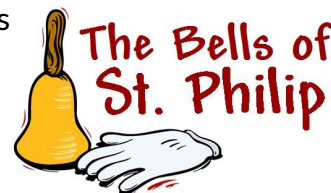
The choir will sing in Sunday traditional services resuming in September!

Rehearsal at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays

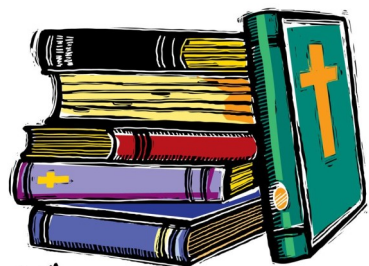
St. Philip Handbell Choir

Start up details to come!

Come on out and give it a try!



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

Message from the Lutheran Coalition of Habitat for Humanity

As our Construction and Volunteer teams started putting all the pieces together for our Kissena Lane builds in Apex, we quickly realized that we needed to spread the builds out longer. The Kissena Lane site is just too small to accommodate the number of volunteers in the plan we initially shared with you.

As such, we have moved the start of the Lutheran Build back a month. Day 1 is now Saturday, October 9.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering in this effort.

We want to send 5 volunteers on Day 1, which is now October 9. We will have other dates to sign up for soon.

We hope that every church will participate in the October 9 on-site wall-build and the 11:15 AM kick-off ceremony.

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.



Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

We're getting together in person again!

At iHop on Six
Forks

Tuesday 8/17/21
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

Ladies Lunch

Will be held on the first Thursday of the month resuming
on September 2nd Lunch begins at noon. Watch for
details about what restaurant
we will meet at.

Please make your reservation
with Claire Muller,
919-752-6541 or



Puzzle Get Together

Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month, beginning on
September 28th in the Music Room at 10 am
Come, relax, and have fun completing a puzzle.

Questions? Contact Claire Muller
at 919- 752-6541 or claire6078@att.net

Hope to see you there!



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!

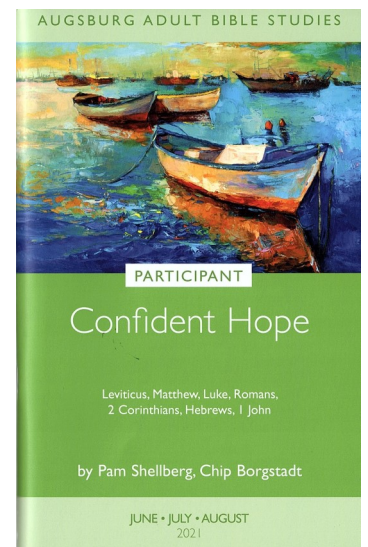
We will be welcoming back the Dulcimers! Please RSVP to
Carole Mason by Friday, 9/3 @ 919-872-1518

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 are meeting in person again! Sunday mornings, 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!



Lutheran World Relief Quilting Group



The Quilters are looking for willing hands who can use scissors, tie a knot and who enjoy a warm blanket—to help us on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday at 9:30 am starting September 8th in the lower level under Luther Hall.

Please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile endeavor.
Questions: contact Barbara Burdette at bburd45955@aol.com



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

Fellowship Dinner Group

Meets on the 4th Tuesday evening of the month at a local restaurant for good food and fellow-ship.

This month we will meet on August 24th @6:30
Watch your weekly eNews for the restaurant!

For more information contact
Carol Rogers
parakayaker@gmail.com
Everyone is invited!!



Brown Bag Ministry is Back! 🍌



We are so excited to announce that Brown Bag Ministry at St. Philip has started 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 snacks & fruit!



Questions? Contact Stacey Bell at
raleighbells@gmail.com

Pub Ministry

We're getting back together again at Wakefield Tavern for Men's Pub Ministry Tuesday August 24 at 6:30 pm on the patio.

Wakefield Tavern is located at
13200 Falls of Neuse Rd



Exciting News from United Way and Band Together

We're thrilled to announce that Families Together has been chosen as an Impact Partner for Band Together and United Way of the Greater Triangle's 2021 partnership and [Comeback Fest](#) celebration.



This year's campaign is all about the recovery and rebuilding of our nonprofit community affected by the pandemic. Their substantial goal this year is to raise \$2 million for 100 nonprofits, including Families Together,

that are on the frontlines of the pandemic in Wake, Durham, Orange, and Johnston County. To learn more, check out www.comebackfest.com.

Financial Empowerment and Employment Team

Strengthening clients' financial literacy and assisting them in the workplace is one of Families Together's goals for our Spring 2021 campaign. The Financial Empowerment and Employment team has been hard at work continuing to find the best ways to serve our families as well as measure the work we do. Last month, the FEE team helped a client build a new resume. The client was then called in for an interview at Duke Energy. The team helped the client prepare with a mock interview, and the client was offered the job the following week!

Pantry Needs

Families Together has been very busy helping clients find affordable housing in Wake County. As a result, we need new full- and queen-sized pillows, twin and full-sized bed sheet sets, and cleaning supplies. If you have any of these items and would like to donate, please reach out to out to martinique@famielstogethernc.org to set up a drop off time.

Volunteer Opportunities

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 and tend the garden (you can either pick a day and water the garden that same day every week or come multiple times a week). We are also looking for individuals that would like to assist with landscaping on our multiple properties. If you are interested, know anybody who may be, or would like to find out about our group volunteer opportunities, please reach out to martinique@famielstogethernc.org for more information.



The CAPTRUST team put on their gardening gloves, grabbed their rakes and shovels, and joined Families Together for a half day of challenging bamboo removal at one of our properties. Our long-term goal is to build more affordable housing on the site. Thank you to our friends at CCF for volunteering with Families Together!



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

Message from the Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In June income bounced back up from May, but was again a bit below budget. As noted last month, are still in good shape, but we ask once more that everyone continue their gifts during the summer months when offerings have tended to decline historically. I am sure our congregation will respond!

For June, total income was \$42,645, or \$2,000 below plan, while expenses were \$40,869, or \$1,230 better than plan. Year-to-date through the first six months, our income was \$303,404, or \$32,963 above plan. Expenses totaled \$244,911 and were \$34,745 under plan. For the year, income exceeded expenses by \$58,493.

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

Blessings,
Jim Beck, Finance Chair



Attention THRIVENT Members

Have you checked your Thrivent Choice Dollars lately? You can either go online to Thrivent.com or call 800-Thrivent and ask for Fraternal. If you call, just tell them you want to designate your Choice Dollars to St Philip. Thank you for considering giving your Choice Dollars to your church.



Please join us on September 12th

For the **God's Work. Our Hands** synod event! St. Philip will be celebrating our calling to love and serve others with an opportunity to enjoy reconnecting through worship, fellowship, and service. What could be better?

We will start with a joint worship service at 10 am, then will gather for a meal in Luther Hall.



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

God's work.
Our hands.

September 12, 2021

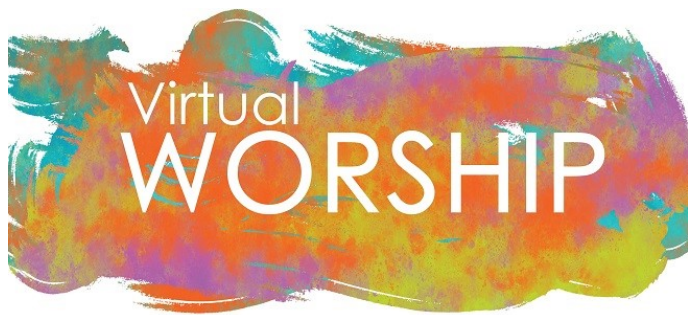
Once we are finished eating, we will continue enjoying each other's company while we focus on serving our community. Opportunities for service will be at St. Philip and focus on filling needs at Families Together, Elmcroft, Refugee Hope Partners, and those facing homelessness in our community.

We look forward to seeing you there! If you have questions, please email Stacey Bell at

raleighbells@gmail.com



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Virtual Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 12:30 pm Drive Through Communion 3:00 pm Restoration worship | 2 7:00 pm Marketing Meeting | 3 | 4 7:00 pm Eagle Scout Review Boards | 5 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA | 6 | 7 7:00 pm AA |
| 8 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Virtual Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration worship 6:30 pm Congregation Council | 9 Office Closed 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 342 | 10 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Preschool Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts | 11 | 12 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Stewardship | 13 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA | 14 8:30 am Alley Cats & Angels 10:00 am Brown Bag 7:00 pm AA |
| 15 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration worship | 16 Parking Lot Paving 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 342 | 17 Parking Lot Paving 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Tele- worship Meeting | 18 11:00 am Staff | 19 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA | 20 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA | 21 7:00 pm AA |
| 22 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration worship | 23 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 342 | 24 11:00 am Staff 6:30 pm Fellowship Dinner Group 6:30 pm Pub Ministry | 25 | 26 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA | 27 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA | 28 10:00 am Brown Bag 7:00 pm AA |
| 29 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration worship | 30 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troop 342 | 31 11:00 am Staff 7:00 pm Worship & Music | | | | |
| | | | | | | |



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



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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[stplcraleigh](#)



St. Philip Lutheran Church

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Raleigh, NC 27615

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www.St-Philip.org

HOLY COMMUNION IS SERVED SUNDAY

12:30-1:00

DRIVE THROUGH

AUGUST 1

