

Hope is Born

The Epistle

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2021

Pastor's Message

Happy New Year!

I bet you were confused for just a second, there, as you probably thought, "Wait, are we already at New Year's? What happened to Christmas? I know time flies, but surely I'm not that confused!" You're absolutely right: you're not that confused, and Christmas is still over three weeks away.

Most of us are conditioned to think along the lines of our secular calendar, where New Year's is January 1st. But we are Christians who follow a liturgical/church year calendar, as well. And, for us, the "new" liturgical year starts with the season of Advent, which normally begins at the end of November and goes until Christmas on December 25th.

Advent is a season of hope and expectation, as we await the coming of Jesus Christ to this world. While most Christians view this as counting down the days until the birth of the baby Jesus, the Incarnation of God, at Christmas, that is a past event. It is a past event to be remembered, commemorated, and celebrated. And so, Advent inevitably becomes the waiting for Christ's coming, which occurred some two thousand years ago.

But perhaps we are negligent in terms of our awaiting Christ's return at the end of days, what is commonly referred to as his "second coming." That is a future event, which we oftentimes shortchange. But it is a core tenet of our faith. The Apostles' Creed reads, "He will come again to judge the living and the dead," while the Nicene Creed states, "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end." So, in the midst of celebrating Christ's first coming, let us not neglect to anticipate and eagerly await his second coming, that day when –

as Luke's gospel says – we will "stand up and raise our heads, because our redemption is drawing near." We celebrate all that Christ has already done in this world and in our lives, and we look forward to all that he WILL do on that day when he makes "all things new." Both comings of Christ (past and future) are the hope of Advent.

I might add what a personal blessing it is for us here at St. Philip to await the birth of Niko Emerson Wang, Regan and Kelun's baby boy, at the same time. God is blessing us through Regan and Kelun, and we are so excited to share in their joy. We continue to pray for a safe and healthy delivery.

We have two Christmas Eve worship services this year, Crossing at 4 pm on December 24th, and Traditional at 9 pm. Please avail yourselves of one or both opportunities to worship and praise God on this holiest of evenings. Very few services are as beautiful as a Christmas Eve worship service. The peace of the Lord will envelop us that evening. I look forward to seeing you then.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." -- Romans 15: 13.

Advent and Christmas peace and blessings to you all,
Pastor Tim



Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Music Room or on Zoom.

Pastor Tim leads a Bible study on the Book of Acts.

[Click here for Zoom details](#)



G.R.O.W.

Get Renewed on Wednesdays!



Wednesdays at 6:45 in the Music Room or online via [Zoom](#)—Join in a mid-week respite.

Pastor Tim will lead an Acts Bible study

Bring your friends—all are welcome!

[Click here for Zoom details](#)



Called Congregation Meeting

December 19, 10:15

For the purpose of approving
the spending plan for 2022

In person or via [Zoom](#)



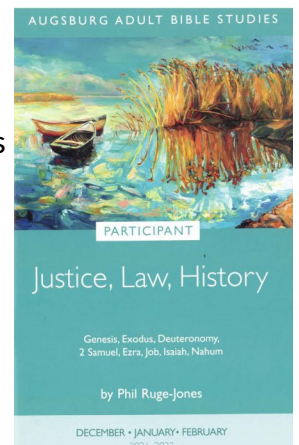
Augsburg Sunday School Class

Sunday mornings, at 10:00 in the Music Room.
The class will use the Bible study guide, *Justice, Law & History*..

The purpose of this study is to reflect on the interplay between God's vision for a just world, the law as Israel's guide in justice making, and history as the location where divine justice takes on flesh.

We are invited to walk in this long tradition of justice as people of faith.

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!





December brings lots of fun, JOY and praise to the preschool classrooms!! We will have birthday parties for Jesus and share the Christmas story by reading God's word and singing with our class friends. Also, we will share a "virtual" Christmas Program with our family and friends!! Please visit our website, Facebook and/or Instagram after December 17th to enjoy the Christmas story through the sweet sounds of our precious children! Also, Santa will make his way to the preschool to "visit" the children from a safe distance!! We are blessed to be 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!!

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



Sunday Mornings @ 10:30 a Children's Chat with Cathryn will take place outside on the porch! 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!!



Middle and High School

The youth group will meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month at 4:00 pm via Zoom. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84934993848>



Open!!

Youth Gathering Registration Is

The Youth Gathering is open to all youth currently in grades 8-12.
Contact Cathryn cathryn@st-philip.org for more information!

I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured.
Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.

EPHESIANS 3:19 CEV



fb.com/youthgathering



[@elcagathering](https://www.instagram.com/elcagathering)

www.elca.org/gathering

#ELCAYG2022

Congregation Council Message

St. Philip Lovers of Christ,

During this Advent season, we reflect on God's amazing gift and love for us. It's during this time that we also show appreciation to the people that are important to us in our lives. St. Philip is an important part of all our lives. It takes a lot of work by our dedicated staff to keep it running.

You are invited to show your gratitude and appreciation by contributing to the Staff Christmas Gift. Please consider a special offering marked as "Staff Christmas Gift". It can be done online, dropped off in the church mailbox, or simply brought to Sunday morning's offering plate. We need all gifts by January 15th at the latest.

Blessings,
Mike Davis

The Bells of St. Philip Playing at Crossing Worship



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 sings in Sunday traditional services
Rehearsal at 7:00 pm on Thursdays

St. Philip Handbell Choir

We meet on Sundays at 5:00 in the Sanctuary

You do not need previous experience or ability to read music
Just a desire to make a joyful noise to the Lord! (really!)

Come on out and give it a try!



Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

We're getting together in person again!

At iHop on Six
Forks



Tuesday 12/21/21
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 December 2nd. Lunch begins at noon Olive Garden on
Capital Blvd.

Please make your reservation
with Claire Muller,
919-752-6541 or
claire6078@att.net.

Hope to see you there!



Lutheran World Relief Quilting Group

The Quilters will begin meeting again in January, 2022.
We 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 in the lower level
under Luther Hall.

Please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile
endeavor. Contact Barbara Burdette for more
information: bburd45955@aol.com



A special meal & program about Native Americans is being planned
for our gathering together, that we know everyone will enjoy!
Fellowship, Food, and Fun!

Please RSVP to Carole Mason by Friday, 12/5 @ 919-210-0727

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

December 14 at 11:30

Fellowship Dinner Group

We will wait to meet in January, 2022
at a local restaurant for good food and
fellowship.



For more information contact
Carol Rogers parakayaker@gmail.com

Pub Ministry

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. We also provide service to the church and
community.

Watch your email and the Sunday
Announcements for the next meeting date &
place.

All men are welcome, we hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Mark Glass @
mark.glass@gmail.com

Sharing the Love of Christ

Service project done together by the G.R.O.W. Bible Study group

Homeless Resource Bags—you can pick up a few to take with you to distribute to folks you may come across, who are in need. You'll find them in the baskets outside Kepley Hall and the Sanctuary.

Senior Adult Ministry Team

Created Thanksgiving Gift Bags for our homebound members—The gift bags were delivered to a dozen people.



Fall Festival

Thank you all who helped with the setting up for the Fall Festival last Friday night, working the tables, playing musical instruments and helping with the food.

The raffle tables were a huge success and many were even dancing to the music from our talented band. Even though the day was cold, there were relationships being built and warm inside.

Again with a grateful heart many thanks. I pray for each coming year to become better with welcoming visitors from the community to show them how loving we are and how we work as a TEAM.

~ Paula Metivier



Celebrate!

Opportunities to Serve



The Habitat house that the Lutheran Coalition is working on, is pictured here. St. Philip is a member of the Lutheran Coalition.

These builds draw volunteers from other coalitions composed of churches in the Triangle area. That means there are many people working on construction days.

St. Philip's work day is December 4th.

Please contact Mark for more information and to volunteer to work that day.

We need 5-6 people to volunteer to help build that day!

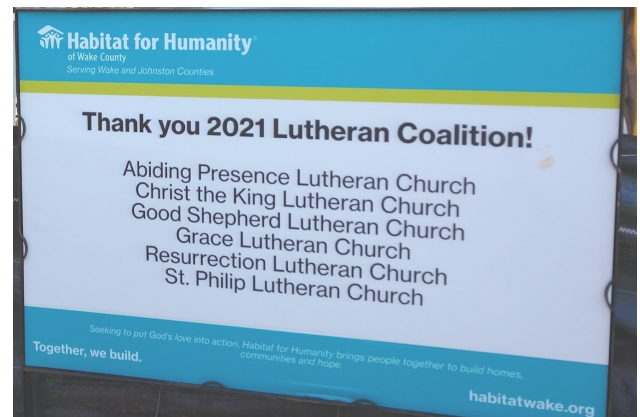
Mark Glass and Julie Helmey are St. Philip's representatives to Habitat for Humanity—they'd both be happy to talk about the experience and the fellowship that is found while working to provide housing opportunities for our neighbors.

Mark Glass, Mark.glass@gmail.com

Julie Helmey, jhelmey@earthlink.net

Habitat for Humanity Lutheran Coalition:

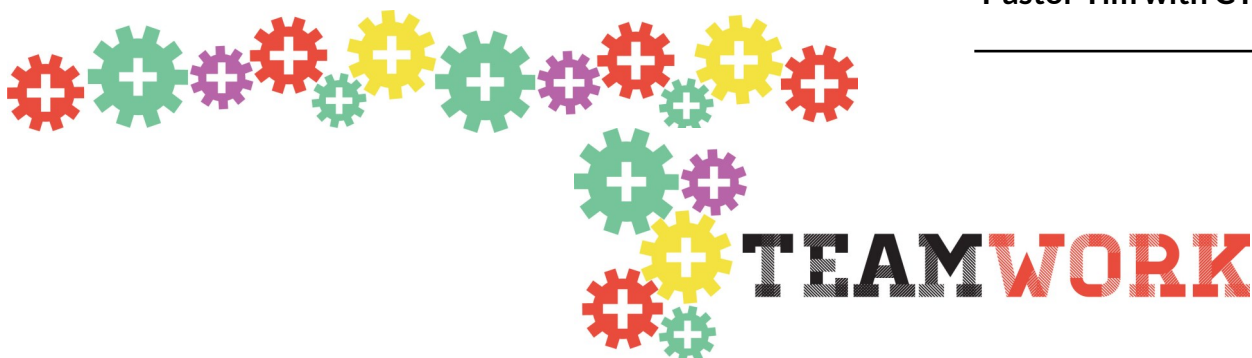
<https://www.habitatwake.org/faith/lutheran>



Lutheran Coalition Build



Pastor Tim with CTK volunteers





Fall Campaign: A Bridge to Home

A household in our community must earn an hourly wage of \$23.08 -- a 17% increase in three years -- to afford the average two-bedroom apartment. In this skyrocketing rental market, Wake County loses approximately 1,000 affordable housing units each year. These and other pre-existing housing and homelessness challenges are compounded by the eviction moratorium ending and the COVID-19 pandemic entering year three. Families Together is working to continue to expand our portfolio of affordable housing and we need your help. This fall we are raising funds for three large upcoming projects: 1) Expanding our Emergency Shelter from 6 to 10 family units, 2) Renovating recently purchased properties for Bridge Housing, and 3) Advancing plans for a cottage court development on property owned by Families Together. Your financial support will help achieve these critical goals and continue our life-changing skills building and housing support services. Let's face the urgent community need for affordable housing and homelessness support with FAITH...HOPE...and RESILIENCE. Let's Face It Together. When we join forces as a community, we can ensure more local children have a stable roof overhead and a warm bed to sleep in at night. You can donate online by going to FamiliesTogetherNC.org by mailing a check to Families Together; PO Box 14395; Raleigh, NC 27620. Thank you!

Cottage Court Development

Families Together is excited to share we are moving forward with our Cottage Court Development of 10-11 small homes. Last month, we hosted three visioning sessions with key stakeholder groups -- former clients, staff, and board members/long-time supporters. The purpose of the visioning sessions was to get feedback from the groups on preliminary designs and layouts in order to create a shared community vision. Our development team of architects and organization leaders will soon be reviewing the feedback and incorporating it into the next step in the development process. The idea of

the cottage court is to provide a sense of community and togetherness for the families living there. Each family will have their own place to call home with front porches that overlook a shared green space where children can play. Please stay tuned -- we are excited to share more with you about this project in the future!

Holiday Smiles

The families we serve are working hard to leave homelessness behind and find stable housing. When they don't have to worry about Christmas gifts for their children, they're able to focus more on meeting their budget goals as well as have a more peaceful

**Holiday
smiles**



season during what can be a difficult time. If you are interested in sponsoring a child or a family for the holiday season, please contact

Martinique at martinique@famielstogethernc.org

Brown Bag Ministry

SWEET & SALTY SNACKS

and

VOLUNTEERS

are needed for

Brown Bag Ministry

on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays!

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

Please come join us on the

2nd & 4th Saturdays

You can sign up on line now!

[Click Here!](#)

monthly at 10:00 am until 12 noon.

Questions? Contact Stacey Bell at

raleighbells@gmail.com



Sunday, December 26 at 10:00 am

Plan now to attend this special service to sing praises to our Lord & Savior



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

4:00 CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC LED BY
PRAISE BAND WITH HOLY COMMUNION

9:00 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP MUSIC LED BY
CHOIR WITH HOLY COMMUNION

IN PERSON OR ONLINE VIA
[FACEBOOK LIVE](#) & [ZOOM](#)



Poinsettias

If you would like to place a Poinsettia in the Church Sanctuary to decorate for the Christmas Season, please fill out this form and place in the offering plate or in Church Office. Make your check payable to

“St. Philip Lutheran Church” for \$10.00
and mark for “Poinsettias”.

The deadline is December 17th

Number of Poinsettias ____

Given in Honor of:

Given in Memory of:

By _____

Phone _____

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



Celebrate! Abundance

Stewardship Message—

a recap...

This year the Stewardship Committee's theme has been **Open Hearts, Helping Hands**, expanding on St. Philip's mission statement – **Sharing the Love of Christ**.

Focusing on how God has enriched our lives, opened our hearts and made our faith stronger.

With a desire to bring attention to your generosity in supporting our annual ministry plan and at the same time enhancing each of our own individual giving plans.

We kicked off the stewardship campaign on Sunday, 10/3 at both services. Through the month of October we heard testimonies



from St. Philip members about how God is working in their lives and the impact that St. Philip has on them. You can see the testimonies on our website at: st-philip.org/stewardship-at-st-philip/

Celebration Sunday was on 10/24/21 again at both services giving thanks for the pledges submitted and the many blessings received by St. Philip. Estimate of Giving Cards for the coming year, 2022.

Thank you to all those who have found a way to continue giving to St. Philip since the Covid-19 crisis began. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and goes a long way toward alleviating some of the financial constraints some churches are now facing.

We know you do not need us to remind you that the ongoing ministry of St. Philip depends to a great extent on regular financial support. We appreciate the many ways you have continued to enable that ministry and pray for you to receive the strength you need to navigate through these difficult and sometimes scary times.

You can still submit your estimate of giving for 2022 by filling out the form online: [Click Here](#)

Your generosity and commitment to Christ's work at St. Philip is sincerely appreciated and essential to carrying out our mission to **Share the Love of Christ**.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Philip.

Stewardship Team

Pastor Tim Poston
Julie Helmey, Chair
Wayne Smedley
Joe Edwards
Dave Wahlstrom
Frank Bouknight
Mike Davis

Congregation Council 2022

Name	Council Position	Term		Email
Rev. Tim Poston	Pastor			pastor@st-philip.org
Shelley Bower		2020	2022	Shellbell.bower@gmail.com
Marilyn Caple		2022	2024	m.caple@yahoo.com
Linda Colley		2022	2024	kyutuu@gmail.com
Kathy Cunningham		2021	2023	kecunningham1212@gmail.com
Ariah Davis	Youth Representative	2022	2022	
Mike Fagan		2022	2024	Michael.Fagan@attindas.com
Liese Faircloth		2021	2023	lbfaircloth@yahoo.com
Julie Helmey		2020	2022	jhelmey@earthlink.net
Lois Knauff		2022	2024	lknauff3@gmail.com
Ed Peterson		2020	2022	Edpeterson.raleigh@gmail.com
Ron Ubertini		2021	2023	boomr3@aol.com
Wayland Smedley		2022	2024	wsmedleycpa@gmail.com
Kent Williams		2021	2023	kentw28078@gmail.com

Installation of the new Congregation Council members will take place on Sunday January 9th

Giving				<div>October 2021 Financial Summary</div>		
	Actual	Plan	%			
October 2021	\$ 49,220	\$ 46,644	106%			
Year to Date	\$504,215	\$451,018	112%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$45,287	\$ 37,508	121%	\$481,385	\$375,083	128%
Other Income	\$ 3,934	\$ 9,136	43%	\$ 22,830	\$75,935	30%
Total Income	\$49,220	\$ 46,644	106%	504,215	\$451,018	112%
Expenses	\$ 39,196	\$ 47,308	83%	\$390,816	\$457,140	85%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 10,024	\$ (644)		\$ 113,399	\$ (6,122)	

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



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm G.R.O.W.	2 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	3 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	4 8:30 am Habitat for Humanity 7:00 pm AA
5 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 10:10 am Children's Chat on the porch 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration	6 7:00 pm Property Team	7 7:00 pm Preschool Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	8 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm G.R.O.W.	9 6:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	10 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	11 10:00 am Brown Bag 7:00 pm AA
12 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg 10:10 am Children's Chat on the porch 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration 4:00 pm MS/HS Youth Group 6:30 pm Congregation Council	13 2:00 pm Staff 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	14 11:30 am Saints and Sinners 6:30 pm Stewardship	15 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm G.R.O.W.	16 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	17 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	18 7:00 pm AA
19 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 10:15 am Congregation Meeting 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration	20 2:00 pm Staff	21 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	22	23 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	24 10:00 am Al-Anon 4:00 pm Crossing Christmas Eve 7:00 pm AA 9:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 7:00 pm AA
26 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 10:10 am Children's Chat on the porch 11:00 am Traditional 3:00 pm Restoration Group	27 Office Closed	28 7:00 pm Worship & Music 6:30 pm Pub Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	29	30 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	31 Office Closed 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	2022 Happy New Year!

Worship with ST. PHILIP

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

9:00 am
Contemporary



In person

or

Online



Facebook Live

11:00 am
Traditional



In person

or

Online



Zoom & Facebook Live

Zoom Link:

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

(same link each week)

Rev. Tim Poston

Pastor

pastor@st-philip.org

Cathryn Hewett

Director of Faith

Formation

cathryn@st-philip.org

Regan Wang

Organist/Pianist

919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org

Office Hours:

Mon Wed & Fri

9:00 —4:00

Tues & Thurs

(Virtual) 9:00—4:00



Bob Petters

Choir Director

Jane Gue

Office Administrator

admin@st-philip.org

[Facebook](#)

St. Philip Lutheran
Church, Raleigh



Twitter

[@St_PhilipELCA](#)



Instagram
[stplcraleigh](#)



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