

The Epistle

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2022

Pastor's Message

Happy New Year! I pray you are open to receiving all the blessings God has in store for you in 2022. Our God is faithful, and we always take comfort in that.

We are most excited to be offering a "New Members' Class" on Saturday, January 29th, from 10 am to 12 pm, here at church. Help spread the word! We welcome all who are interested in formally joining the body of Christ here at St. Philip. Refreshments will be served. We will introduce you to the history, ministries, and opportunities of our congregation. It will be a joy for us to receive all who express an interest in joining us. Now is an exciting time to be a part of this ministry we share together. After the class on January 29th, we will formally receive our new members on Sunday, February 13, and have a reception in their honor. We are still working out details in this regard, but we wanted everyone to be able to have the dates to plan accordingly. We bless and praise God for the spiritual and numerical growth He has given us here in this place!

Sunday, January 30th, will be a big day for us. We decided that we would have one combined worship service together every fifth Sunday (so quarterly). This would enable those who normally attend our 9 am Crossing service and our 11 am Traditional service to come together for worship and fellowship at least four times per year (in addition to our "God's Work/Our Hands" combined worship service each fall).

This Sunday will also be our annual RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Sunday, when we affirm our LGBTQ siblings and intentionally embrace our diversity and the fact that we are becoming more inclusive. I would like to thank those who labored so hard (long before I arrived) to see to it that St. Philip was a place who worked to love and embrace all of God's children. And finally, this Sunday will also be the occasion of our Annual Congregational Meeting, when we review the past year, assess our present status, and plan for the future. We hope you can attend. This meeting will be held immediately following worship. God has been especially good to us as of late, and so we recommit our lives to Him in this new year.

I am so excited to announce that Kathy Cunningham and Mike Fagan are our newly elected Church Council President and Vice-President, respectively. The Council and I look forward to working with them and benefitting from their leadership and expertise.

Again, Happy New Year! And may God bless you in unexpected and unanticipated ways in 2022.

Yours in Christ,
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](#)

thank
you!



January 30, 2022

5th Sunday

One Service @ 10:00



Annual Congregation

Meeting @ 11:00

In person or via [Zoom](#)

Augsburg Sunday School Class

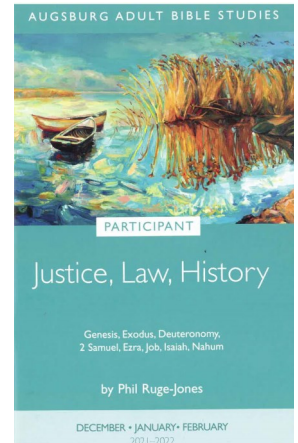
Sunday mornings, at 10:00 in the Music Room.

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!



Sally Bowman continues to recover at Rex Rehabilitation Center and misses St. Philip!

She is so grateful and happy to have received cards and notes from everyone!

Lets keep up the good work in reminding her of how much she is loved!

Rex Rehabilitation Center,
911 S. Hughs St., Rm 115
Apex, NC 27502



The preschool children enjoyed celebrating the week before their Christmas break with a birthday party for Jesus and they enjoyed singing about Jesus with their friends. Their sweet voices filled our classrooms with lots of love, JOY and smiles!! The children also had a "surprise" visit from Santa during carpool!

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year begins January 4th for preschool families and church members. It will open to the public on January 18th. We would like to fill our classes to capacity so please tell your friends and neighbors all about our preschool! You may contact Leigh Anne Barham at 919-870-5841 or 919-818-9585 or at kidlover61@nc.rr.com for more information.

God bless you all and Happy New Year!!

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

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 is at 7:00 pm on Thursdays

The Bells of St. Philip Handbell Choir

We will resume meeting on Sundays at 5:00 in the Sanctuary—
when Regan comes back from maternity leave. Watch for updates.

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!



Niko is here!!!!



**Congratulations to
Regan & Kelun Wang!**

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

We're getting together in person again!

At iHop on Six Forks



Tuesday 1/ 18/21

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 January 6th. Lunch begins at noon Saints & Scholars on Spring Forest Rd.

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

Hope to see you there!



Lutheran World Relief Quilting Group

Watch the announcements for when the Quilters will begin meeting again in the lower level of the education building. 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 of the month. Please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile endeavor. Contact Barbara Burdette for more information: bburd45955@aol.com



January 11 at 11:30

This month's luncheon is cancelled.

Hopefully we'll get together again in February!

Contact Frank Bouknight for more information.

bouknightf@yahoo.com or 919-302-1812

Fellowship Dinner Group

We meet monthly at a local restaurant for good food and fellowship.

Watch for details about our next dinner!

For more information contact Carol Rogers

parakayaker@gmail.com

Everyone is invited!!



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.

Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

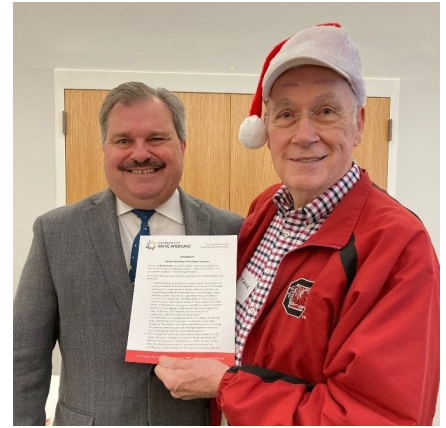
Questions? Contact Mark Glass @

mark.glass@gmail.com

Christmas Celebration!

Saints and Sinners

The December Luncheon was festive and a lot of fun!
The presentation about Native Americans was very interesting.



New Member Class

Why bother with formally uniting with a church?

Being part of a faith community can be described as our opportunity to grasp hold of each other in responsibility and love.

In uniting with church you:

- Make visible your commitment to Christ and his people.
- Enter into a relationship of mutual accountability. When we join a church we offer ourselves to one another to be challenged, encouraged, loved, and strengthened.
- Make promises to practice the spiritual disciplines of daily prayer, active service, weekly worship, regular Bible study, on-going fellowship, and generous giving within and through a particular community of faith.

Learning about St. Philip

If you would like to learn more about St. Philip membership, come join this class! There is no obligation to join however, this class is designed to help start the journey to being active in the ministries of St. Philip.

Becoming part of a faith community like St Philip is a big step but you do not take this step alone. The Holy Spirit has brought you to this place and we look forward to the ministry that we can do together.

Saturday, January 29th

10:00 am—12:00

**Find out more about
Sharing the Love of Christ
at St. Philip!**

Christmas at St. Philip



Senior Adult Ministry Team

This active team meets monthly to plan on ways to reach out to our homebound members. As well as discussing ways to create fellowship and caring events for all of St. Philip's senior members!

For Christmas they created and delivered these beautiful gift bags! Special thank you to Deb Coccarelli for her creativity making them!

If you would like more information or to get involved with this caring ministry, contact Kathryn Edwards at itsmekge@gmail.com.

We meet the first Wednesday morning of the month at 9:30 in the Music Room.



Sharing the Love of Christ

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



We had a great turn-out of
St. Philip Volunteers!
It was a good day of working
and spending time in
fellowship with one another.
Thank you !

Celebrate!

Another Opportunity to Serve!

St Philip has volunteered to Participate in the Habitat for Humanity build on Saturday 1/29/22. This is the link to the sign up page. <https://habitatwake.volunteerhub.com/lp/lutheranbuild/event/3157bc87-479b-4ae6-98ec-6c1f5c08c1c7#> =

There are a limited number of slots that are open to the community so sign up (necessary) using the link above.

Please call Mark Glass 336-212-3714 or Julie Helmey 919-280-8864 if you have questions or problems signing up.

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.

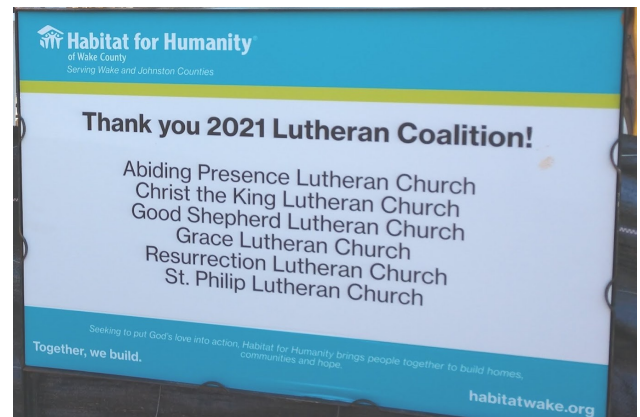
Mark Glass and Julie Helmey are St. Philip's representatives to Habitat for Humanity—they'd both be happy to talk about the experience and the fellowship that is found while working to provide housing opportunities for our neighbors.

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



TEAMWORK





Triple Impact Match Day

We at Families Together are completely overwhelmed and full of gratitude over the results of the phenomenal Triple Impact Day held on November 30th – Giving Tuesday. Thanks to the incredible giving spirit and immense generosity of so many in our community, Families Together raised \$77,543 from 150 donors and with the help of our amazing match donors, the Alfred G. and Marybeth B. Childers Foundation, Gipson Family Foundation, and an anonymous donor. This amount will have a tremendous life-changing impact on local families experiencing homelessness!

With your contributions, we are well on our way to executing our Action Plan, which seeks to expand our emergency housing capacity, renovate newly acquired properties, grow our Financial Empowerment and Employment and other support services, and move forward with planning for the cottage court development. To keep up with our progress, make sure to follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @families2gether.

From our hearts, thank you. Our team created a 50-second video expressing our gratitude for all you do to make our mission possible. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/VFKP6d0gWOs>!

If you have not donated to Families Together and would like to in 2021, simply go online to FamiliesTogetherNC.org and click the “Donate” button or mail your check to Families Together; PO Box 14395; Raleigh, NC 27620.

Thanksgiving Meals Distributed

Thank you to all who donated meal kits for our Thanksgiving Drive. Your support made it possible for 26 families with children to receive all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal along with a gift card for a turkey.

Holiday Smiles

Thank you to all who donated presents, gift cards, and toys for our 2021 Holiday Smiles program. Thanks to your generous donations, 140 children and youth had gifts under the tree on Christmas morning. Imagine the joy on their faces and the happiness experienced by so many parents who were relieved of the stress of not having presents for their kids. The outpouring of support from the community at this time of year, is truly a joy to see.

From all of us at Families Together, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



New!

Sign up ahead of time to
volunteer making lunches
for the
Brown Bag Ministry!

On the 2nd & 4th Saturday
mornings @10:00 am

To learn more and
to sign up!

Visit our website:

st-philip.org/brown-bag-ministry/

Martin Luther King Interfaith Celebration

ONLINE and IN-PERSON

Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022, 3:30 pm

Christ the King Lutheran Church

600 Walnut Street, Cary

ctkcary.com/dreamfest

Event Sponsors: Christ the King Lutheran Church; Islamic Association/Cary Mosque
Beth Shalom Synagogue; Town of Cary "Dreamfest;" ELCA Triangle Conference

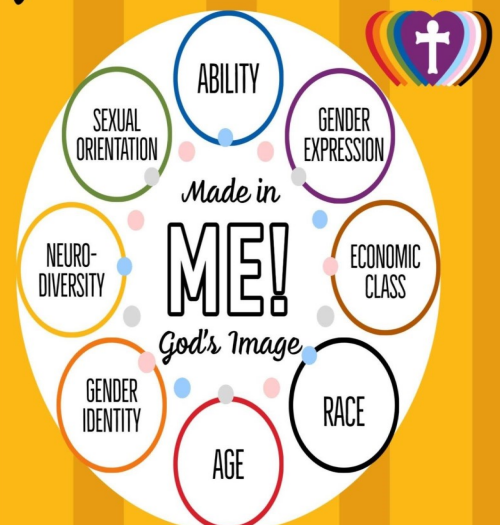


Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday is a celebration shared among our Reconciling in Christ partners. This service is a space in which our faith

community can celebrate our decision to become RIC, be it thirty years ago or three days ago, and spark conversation around what it means to deepen and expand welcome to our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Many RIC communities celebrate RIC Sunday on the last Sunday in January. This year, that lands on January 30, 2022.

The 2022 theme is *Made in God's Image: God's Boundless Diversity!* In a preview of the upcoming Youth Gathering in July of 2022, this worship service is centered in the spirit of youth and the voices of our young people, centered on and created for LGBTQIA+ and ally youth! This will be a time of pledging ourselves to be advocates for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, as well as all siblings of God's diverse Kin-dom.

MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE
God's Boundless Diversity



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Celebrate! Abundance



Stewardship Message— a recap and thank you...

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.

Through this past year we carefully came back to in person worship and continued to stream all of our worship services. We have reached people who were not connected to St. Philip before this pandemic. To do so we continued to fine-tune the process and quality by purchasing additional equipment and licensing to stream services to the public. Fortunately, St. Philip's expenses were less than what we planned for, and gratefully generous gifts, beyond pledges, were given to St. Philip which gave opportunities room to adapt our technology.

We were also able to use these gifts to get some much needed work done on the property. A couple of the projects done were a new roof, upgraded 2 restrooms to be fully accessible, with one set up for Families, and more. The leadership of the Property Team, & Finance Committee is to be commended for strategizing the use of the funds in improvements of our church property.

With the continuing challenges and uncertainties for 2022, we are grateful for your generosity and appreciate the financial commitment you made to St. Philip. We hope that more of us are getting closer to tithing – 10% of either our gross or net income. That's a huge challenge by itself. We pray to God and hope that with his love and guidance that more of us will reach our tithing amounts.

God is always with us during prosperity or struggling at the bottom. He was watching over Mary and Joseph at the end of their long journey with no place to stay, and the innkeeper offered a stable for comfort and safety. God wants us to prosper and gives us many blessings – you can probably think of one or two now. Do not expect the next bombshell to fall. Expect the next blessing to come. One of our biggest blessings is St. Philip – our place to worship for spiritual growth, a sanctuary for comfort and peace, a circle of friends that is growing as we reach out to serve and connect - a place to belong.

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.

We thank everyone for the 76 Estimate of Giving forms received totaling \$366,610.00.

What a blessing!!! What a comfort!! What a joy!

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
Wayland Smedley

Joe Edwards
Dave Wahlstrom
Frank Bouknight

Congregation Council 2022

Name	Council Position	Term		Email
Rev. Tim Poston	Pastor			pastor@st-philip.org
Kathy Cunningham	President	2021	2023	kecunningham1212@gmail.com
Mike Fagan	Vice President	2022	2024	Michael.Fagan@attindas.com
Shelley Bower		2020	2022	Shellbell.bower@gmail.com
Marilyn Caple		2022	2022	m.caple@yahoo.com
Linda Colley		2022	2024	kyutuu@gmail.com
Ariah Davis	Youth Representative	2022	2022	ariahkdavis25@gmail.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>November 2021 Financial Summary</div>		
	Actual	Plan	%			
October 2021	\$ 59,162	\$ 46,644	127%			
Year to Date	\$563,417	\$495,663	114%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$57,624	\$ 37,508	154%	\$539,009	\$412,592	131%
Other Income	\$ 1,538	\$ 9,136	17%	\$ 24,407	\$83,071	29%
Total Income	\$59,162	\$ 46,644	127%	\$563,417	\$495,663	114%
Expenses	\$ 38,520	\$ 41,433	93%	\$429,336	\$498,573	86%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 20,642	\$ 5,211		\$ 134,081	\$ (2,911)	

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

Maury & Karen Gifford	1/1/1968	54 yrs.
Brad & Amy Halferty	1/6/1996	26 yrs.
Carlton & Annette Howard	1/23/2009	13 yrs.



1/2	Christine Grantham	1/16	Claire Muller
1/3	Kent Williams	1/16	Timothy Casadonte
1/3	Nyah Schroeder	1/21	Chad Rimmer
1/5	Brad Halferty	1/21	Anne Travis
1/9	Mary Lee Steinke	1/21	Evelyn Flora
1/9	Sydney Grantham	1/22	Paul Michael Rimmer
1/10	Rob Wiener	1/23	Julie Helmey
1/11	Crystal Ridenhour	1/23	Erica Andrews
1/11	Emeline Kanupp	1/24	Cindy Wolfe
1/12	Kathy Casadonte	1/24	Oliver Smedley
1/13	Janice Carpenter	1/25	Kathryn Shermer
1/15	Liam Pongracz	1/28	JoAnn Smith
1/15	Alayna Carlson	1/30	Amy Halferty

Sunday Morning
WORSHIP ONLINE

IN PERSON WORSHIP TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

9:00 AM CONTEMPORARY ON
FACEBOOK LIVE

11:00 AM TRADITIONAL
ON ZOOM & FACEBOOK

ZOOM DETAILS ON WEBSITE: ST-PHILIP.ORG

Zoom Link:
<https://zoom.us/j/480739190>
(same link each week)

Rev. Tim Poston
Senior 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
stphilipchurchchoir@gmail.com

Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

Facebook
St. Philip Lutheran
Church, Raleigh



Twitter
[@St_PhilipELCA](https://twitter.com/St_PhilipELCA)



Instagram
[stplcraleigh](https://www.instagram.com/stplcraleigh)



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