

The Epistle

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2022

Pastor's Message

In the wake of the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas (where 10 people and 21 people died, respectively, in little more than a week – in the latter instance 19 elementary school children), I feel compelled to share some personal thoughts on guns in our country. Like all of you, I am shocked, disturbed, angry, and sad. We are all praying for the families of the victims and for all those whose lives will be forever more changed and traumatized. Whether we like it or not, this phenomenon occurs with much more frequency in our nation than in any other developed nation (or perhaps any nation).

I have never owned a gun. I have held one in my hand on five occasions. I have never fired one. I have lived and/or worked for many years in New Haven, CT; the lower east side of Detroit; North Philadelphia; Atlanta; and southeast Raleigh (all of which are rough areas in some ways) and have never felt the need to have a firearm.

If people want a gun for sport or for protection/self-defense, I support that. My ex-wife owned a gun, and I supported that.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees our right to bear arms was written in the late 1700's when "arms" were muskets, which could be reloaded every 15-20 seconds (perhaps 12, if you were good). Our forefathers could never have imagined military-style assault automatic or semi-automatic weapons. Personally, I think something along the lines of a 9-millimeter is sufficient for self-protection; I don't know why someone outside law enforcement or the military would need an AK-47 or an AR-15 for protection purposes.

90 percent of Americans favor universal background checks (while acknowledging that will not prevent all our mass shootings), and I am in that number.

We have more guns than people in our nation. And more mass shootings (where more than three or four people are killed) than we have days in the year so far. We are currently averaging 10 mass shootings per week. People say mental health is a root cause of this violence, and I would certainly suspect it is; however, every other nation on earth has people suffering from mental illness, and no other nation has nearly the same frequency of mass shootings. America has four percent of the world's population and 44 percent of the world's suicides by guns. Quite simply, we are awash in weaponry.

I realize the issue is complex, and I certainly don't have all – or even many – of the answers. But one thing I do know for certain is: if we don't change anything, this will continue. If we don't change anything, we will continue to lose thousands of innocent people. If we don't change anything, mass shootings will continue at a rate of several per week. "Thoughts and prayers" are wonderful – but they're not putting the least dent into this horrific cycle of violence.

When Peter drew his sword to defend Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, while he was being arrested, Jesus commanded him to sheath it. "All who take the sword will die by the sword." America has been taking the sword for a long time now. And we see the results. Weekly.

May God have mercy on us.
Pastor Tim

Adult Book Club

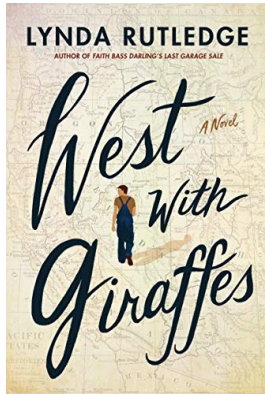
If you love to read and would like to discuss books please join us on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the church parlor at 10am.

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting will be on June 28th and we will be discussing *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave.

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes. Available at the Wake County Library.



Augsburg Sunday School Class

Sunday mornings, at 10:00 in the Music Room. The class will use the Bible study guide, *Partners in a New Creation*

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!



Crossing Praise Team

The music at The Crossing contemporary service is typically different from our traditional worship. There are different musical expressions for different types of Crossing services. For example, there is acoustic, rock(y), contemplative, and bluegrass gospel, among others.



Anyone interested in learning more about the music or the audio/visual side of worship, are invited to join in!

Crossing rehearsals are usually at 6:30 on Thursdays For more information contact [Jim Bell](#).

Message from the Fellowship Team

The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers to bake. We occasionally need homemade baked goods for receptions. Please contact Deb Coccarelli to be added to the list of bakers. Text / call 919-673-7740 or email Deborah.coccarelli@gmail.com





What a different but wonderful 2021-2022 school year! Although our year looked a little different again than in past years, our hearts and hands were FULL of love and grace!! We would like to give God ALL the honor and glory!! We are very grateful for the time with our precious preschool children, wonderful families and dedicated, loving teachers!

Our "virtual" Spring Program..."The Seasons"...was a success as the children sang many fun songs about God's beautiful world! We are looking forward to the 2022-23 school year... hopeful and prayerful that our new school year will be as close to "normal" as can be. We are thankful knowing our Lord and Savior is ALWAYS with us!

Our registration is ongoing and if you are interested or know someone who is please call Leigh Anne Barham at 919-818-9585. We still have openings in some of our classes!

Thank you St. Philip for always opening your doors and loving us! May God bless you and keep you always!



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 Youth

The youth group is not meeting regularly through the summer.

BUT—keep your eye out for some special events!

Any questions? Please contact Cathryn at

cathryn@st-philip.org



Milestone Blessing

On May 22nd the 2022 Graduates were celebrated and blessed at this exciting milestone in their lives.

College Graduates:

- ★ **Liam Alexander** - ECU - MIS Degree - Liam is starting a job in Dallas, TX.
- ★ **Caitlyn Bell** - NCSU - Chemical Engineering - Caitlyn will be part of the Operations Management Leadership Program with GE.
- ★ **Alicia Carlson** - ECU - Exercise Physiology
- ★ **Aaron Faircloth** - ASU - Bachelors of Science in Actuarial Science
- ★ **Elizabeth Faircloth** - NCSU - BS in Nutrition Science NC State
- ★ **Olivia Halferty** - NCSU - Finance. Olivia is moving to Salt Lake City to work as a Global Investment Research Analyst with Goldman Sachs.
- ★ **Camryn Kepley** - UNC - Camryn will be teaching at Southwest Elementary in Durham.

High School Graduates:

- ★ **Jakson Attansio** - Sanderson High School - Baldwin Wallace (playing football)
- ★ **Taylor Fagan** - Ravenscroft - University of North Carolina (Double Major - Music-Voice & Pre Law)
- ★ **Sydney Grantham** - Millbrook High School - Emerson College (writing, literature, publishing)
- ★ **Nick Halferty** - Cary High School - University of Wisconsin (playing Lacrosse and majoring in Finance)
- ★ **Willson Hooks** - Sanderson High School - Appalachian State University (Trumpet)



Welcome to our New Members!



Vanessa Hatcher



Karen Makar



Jason & Katherine Woods
(baby Owen not pictured)

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

At iHop on Six Forks
or on Zoom.



Tuesday 6/21/22
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

Ladies Lunch

Will meet at 12:00 pm on Thursday, June 2, at
Red Lobster.

Please contact Claire Muller to
RSVP for the reservation.
919-752-6541 or
clairegm855@gmail.com



Lutheran World Relief Quilting Group

The Quilters have begun 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 Thursday of
the month.

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

Puzzle Get Together

Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month, beginning
on **June 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!

Fellowship Supper Group

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

Watch for details about our
June 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 Dave Wahlstrom @
dave00256@gmail.com

St Philip Softball

Come on out to watch and cheer our team on at 6:30 on Monday 6/13

St. Philip VS Chapel game at Bay Leaf Baptist Church. Bay Leaf
Baptist is north of I 540 off Possum Track Trail off Six Forks.

[Click Here for Map.](#)



Meanwhile the St. Philip Body of Christ.....

Saints & Sinners

Our program at the May luncheon was presented by Dulcimer Darlings.



Regan conducting her school Orchestra



Congregation Council Retreat



Preschool Kindergarten Class Graduation



Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication



Thanks to Sandy Glass for decorating the church doors





Thank You!

A huge heartfelt thanks to those of you who chose to support Families Together (FT) on our Triple Impact Match Day in April. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, including 6 challenge match funders, we raised an unprecedented (for us) \$111,598! Triple the impact, indeed!

These funds have brought us closer to our spring campaign goal of \$400,000 and, more importantly, will help more families by supporting our action plan which seeks to increase our emergency shelter capacity, complete renovations on 7 recently acquired affordable housing units, expand, and strengthen our one-on-one support services, and advance plans for a cottage court development on land that we own.

Our last Coffee and Community Chat was held on May 3rd, FT Financial Empowerment Lead Harriett Reynolds and Employment Specialist Taniscia Davis discussed how we help families take steps toward financial stability. You will see how our Financial Empowerment and Employment (FEE) team works with every family to assist them in realizing their individual goals in support of achieving financial stability.

We are proud of the way our FEE team is enriching the lives of the families we serve and excited to hear about how they are constantly thinking of new ways to connect our clients to more opportunities that will allow them to thrive. We think you will be, too.

You can watch our chat with the FEE Team here: Coffee and [Community Chat 4: Taking Steps Towards Financial Stability](#)

Special Requests

We are in the process of renovating our newly purchased properties and are looking for gently used washers and dryers.

With the significant increase in gas prices, we are in need of gas gift cards for our families. If you would like to donate any of these items, please reach out to sadie@famielstogethernc.org

Brown Bag Ministry



Every
2nd & 4th
Saturday at
10:00 am

To learn more and sign up visit
our website:

st-philip.org/brown-bag-ministry



Some of our volunteers
in May



St. Philip gives baby diapers every month through our partnership with The Diaper Bank.

One of the things we really need to prepare the diapers for delivery is likely something you have shoved under your sink or in the pantry- it is all those grocery bags (plastic or paper)!

If you have some to spare, we would love to take them off your hands. You can drop them off at Kepley Kitchen, if the office is closed, leave them at the door.

Contact Stacey Bell for information on how you can contribute. Raleighbells@yahoo.com

Message from Finance

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We continue to have good financial results and are on a solid footing. April was not as strong as March, but generally in line with our budget.

In April, total income was \$47,186 for the month, or \$522 under plan, while expenses were \$43,997, or \$7,007 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$203,536, or \$10,955 above plan, while expenses were \$170,688, or \$22,349 under plan. Income exceeded expenses by \$32,848.

Thank you for your continued generosity and financial support of 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.

Giving				<div>April 2022 Financial Summary</div>		
	Actual	Plan	%			
April 2022	\$ 47,186	\$ 47,708	99%			
Year to Date	\$203,536	\$192,581	106%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$42,930	\$ 42,083	102%	\$193,942	\$186,333	104%
Other Income	\$ 4,256	\$ 5,624	76%	\$ 9,594	\$6,248	154%
Total Income	\$47,186	\$ 47,708	99%	\$203,536	\$192,581	106%
Expenses	\$ 43,997	\$ 51,004	86%	\$170,688	\$193,038	88%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 3,189	\$ (3,297)		\$ 32,848	\$ (457)	
The Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$575,993						

WEAR RED FOR

Sunday, June 5, 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry	2 NC Synod Gathering 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA	3 NC Synod Gathering 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	4 NC Synod Gathering 7:00 pm AA
5 Pentecost 5:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells	6 2:00 pm Staff	7 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	8	9 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Finance	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 Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Congregation Council	13 2:00 pm Staff 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 6:30 pm Softball Game	14 6:30 pm Finance Budget Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Preschool Board	15	16 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm Stewardship 6:30 pm NA	17 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	18 7:00 pm AA
19 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration	20 2:00 pm Staff	21 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 6:30 pm Dinner Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	22	23 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Softball Game 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	24 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	25 10:00 am Brown Bag 7:00 pm AA
26 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration	27	28 10:00 am Book Club 10:00 am Puzzle Group 6:30 pm Pub Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Worship & Music	29	30 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Crossing Practice 6:30 pm NA		



Bob Petters

Choir Director

stphilipchurchchoir@gmail.com

Jane Gue

Office Administrator

admin@st-philip.org

[Facebook](#)

St. Philip Lutheran
Church, Raleigh



Twitter

[@St_PhilipELCA](#)



Instagram
[stplcraleigh](#)



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

Worship with ST. PHILIP

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

9:00 am Contemporary	11:00 am Traditional
	
In person	In person
or	or
Online	Online
	
Facebook Live	Zoom & Facebook Live



St. Philip Lutheran Church

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Raleigh, NC 27615

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