



The Epistle

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH JULY 2022

Pastor's Message

Happy Independence Day holiday weekend! I hope you can attend a parade or baseball game and eat hot dogs, apple pie, and ice cream. More meaningfully, I hope you can take some time to reflect on the blessings and freedoms our nation affords us.

We have the ability, in America, to discuss issues, have debates, and then vote. Sometimes the votes go "our way," and sometimes they don't. Our nation has likely always been partisan, but the partisanship seems deeper, more intense and entrenched than ever these days. But one of the blessings of our political system is the three branches of the federal government: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. These three can – and often do – provide a system of checks and balances which serve us well. So, there are a few available avenues to enact policy change if we feel one branch of government is not serving us well. Many nations don't have such a system, and therefore lack the opportunities for effective government that we have here in America.

We have been bombarded as of late with many different moral issues which express themselves through our policy debates in this nation: climate change, racism, gun control, economic concerns, LGBTQ-related issues, and now abortion. As you know, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe vs. Wade* this past week, a decision which guaranteed a woman's right to choose an abortion (within limits) for nearly 50 years. Tens of millions of Americans are rejoicing and celebrating, and tens of millions of Americans are outraged and lamenting. It is a seismic shift in our political landscape.

Recent polling has revealed approximately 60% of Americans disapprove of this Supreme Court decision, while roughly 40% support it. Among women themselves, the divide is even starker: roughly two-thirds of American women disapprove of the decision, while one-third support it. Reproductive rights, freedom, and health clearly are at the forefront of our nation this summer.

Our scriptures rarely concern themselves with the specifics of our debates (e.g., when does life begin? At conception, a fetal heart rate, viability-outside-the-womb, etc.?).

There is Psalm 139: 13-16 which famously says (in part), "For it was you [God] who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret... Your eyes beheld my unformed substance." That shows God to be intimately involved in the process of forming life. There is also Luke 1: 41 which relates, "when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb." This testifies – obviously – that babies move around in the womb. The first scripture depicts God as watching over the process of the formation of life, while the second testifies to babies at some point becoming big and mobile enough to move around.

Perhaps the only scripture to explicitly address a fetus is Exodus 21: 22-25, wherein "it makes a distinction between the penalty levied on someone who causes a pregnant woman to miscarry versus an injury to the woman herself. The former results in a fine; the latter in the 'lex talionis' (an eye for an eye, etc.).

Continued...

(Pastor's Message continued....)

In other words, it distinguishes between a fetus and a human being" (Dr. Gregory Sterling, Dean of Yale Divinity School).

So, the long and short of it is the Bible does not purport to be a scientific manual the way we desire it to be sometimes. It does not concern itself with the subtleties and nuances between fertilized cells, zygotes, blastocysts, embryos, and stages of viability. It celebrates life as a gift from God. And now we must balance that with not only our scientific understanding of stages of pregnancy but also with issues such as rape, incest, and women's control and agency over their own bodies.

Furthermore, the treatment for ectopic pregnancies, a septic uterus, and miscarriages that your body won't release is abortion; without that, you will die. And, of course, there is the other justice matter, namely that women will now likely be compelled to pay the full price and carry the full burden for the consequences that she and a man created together. The man gets off, if he so chooses, scot-free.

The overturning of Roe vs. Wade will have drastic consequences. Again, many are celebrating, and many are in grief, shock, and pain. I invite you to join me in prayer for our nation. We seek, in all ways, to follow Jesus as disciples grounded in justice, love, compassion, and humility.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Tim

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



Worshipping at St. Philip

Have you ever thought about how St. Philip is able to reach out into our community on line with both worship services? Or thought you'd like to serve in this way? It takes a team to broadcast the worship services each week. A team with many volunteers makes for lighter work for everyone.

That's where you come in! The worship teams need people to help out—it is easy—really, because each person does just one thing. And you would be trained for whichever task you'd like to do.

The Traditional, 11:00 service is in particular need of additional folks to join, so that volunteering could be 1 Sunday a month—or more.

If this is something you'd like to give a try at, please contact [Don Helmey](mailto:Don.Helmey). It's our prayer that you will give it prayerful thought about doing. Don Helmey at dhelmey@earthlink.net or 919-280-8847

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!



July 31, 2022

at 10:00 am

Bring a friend to church!

United
in
Worship



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 <http://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!!

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

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



"As a church called to welcome the stranger, and as the North Carolina Synod, we are asking you to help us care for and welcome refugee families."

—Bishop Tim Smith, NC Synod

70% of the synod's 197 congregations (138 congregations) actively engaged in resettlement over the next 18 months.



Key Partnership:

Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) has successfully resettled over 15,000 refugees into the Carolinas since 1980. Beginning in late summer 2022, LSC expects to resettle over 750 Ukrainian refugees across both North & South Carolina. This is on top of the nearly 750 Afghan & Syrian refugees welcomed in 2021.

You are invited

into a conversation with Bishop Tim Smith, Ted Goins, and the leaders in Refugee Resettlement.

During this call, you will learn more about Circles of Welcome, an LSC program that readies you to welcome new families and gives you clear ideas about the ways your church can partner.

- ◇ **Upcoming Meetings:**
Wednesday, July 20 at 7 p.m.
- ◇ Wednesday, August 17 at 3 p.m.

[Register Today!](#)

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

At iHop on Six Forks
or on Zoom.



Tuesday 7/19/22
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, July 7 at First
Watch.

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
mornings of the month at 10:00 am

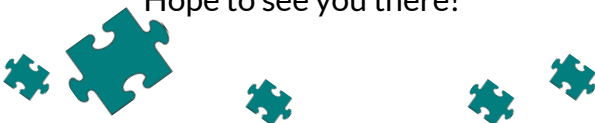
Please consider becoming involved in this worthwhile
endeavor. Contact Barbara Burdette for more
information: bburd45955@aol.com

Puzzle Get Together

Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month, beginning
on **July 26th** 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
August 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 July 26th—the next meeting
date & place.

Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Dave Wahlstrom @
dave00256@gmail.com

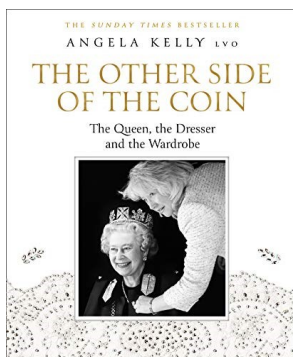
Adult Book Club

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 July 26th, we will be discussing *The Other Side of the Coin* by Angela Kelly. Her Majesty's trusted confidant and Dresser.

A lavishly designed book of never-before-seen photos of The Queen, Her wardrobe and Her jewels and features intimate anecdotes from Angela's 25-year career working closely with Her Majesty.



For the nearly seven decades of her reign, Her Majesty The Queen has used clothing to create a powerful visual identity that transcends fashion and has made her perhaps the most readily identifiable person on the planet. Angela Kelly, building on the work of the great designers and milliners who have worked with Her Majesty through the years.

When Angela Kelly and The Queen are together, laughter echoes through the corridors of Buckingham Palace. Angela has worked with The Queen and walked the corridors of the Royal Household for twenty-five years, initially as Her Majesty's Senior Dresser and then latterly as Her Majesty's Personal Advisor, Curator, Wardrobe and In-house Designer. As the first person in history to hold this title, she shares a uniquely close working relationship with The Queen. Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Pub Ministry



St Philip Softball

Come on out to watch and cheer our team on at 6:30 on Tuesday 7/19— St. Philip VS 6 seed 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.](#)





And that's a wrap! 2022 Building Hope, Growing Community Spring Campaign Ends on a HIGH Note

Families Together set an ambitious goal to raise \$400,000 in this year's spring campaign and thanks to the incredible support from those of you in the faith community and the hard work of our Board, we not only met that goal but surpassed it by over \$20,000!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported our Spring Campaign efforts! You have certainly made a meaningful impact and will help to move more families from homelessness to home.

'Tis the Season....for Volunteering

Families Together is inviting volunteer groups to aid us in our quest to make the units we own and/or lease welcoming homes for families transitioning from homelessness. For nearly two years, the pandemic caused us to limit our volunteer events for everyone's safety. We are excited to once again feel the buzz of activity and camaraderie amongst volunteers on a more regular basis.

In May, we had five groups come out to make our properties shine!

A group from Resurrection Lutheran Church worked at one of our newly renovated properties creating lovely, landscaped flower beds to welcome the two new families that moved in shortly after their hard labor.

Christ the King Lutheran Church volunteers came out to our offices and shelter units to clean up the porch furniture and organize our shed! Not only can we now more easily access equipment for regular maintenance, but our onsite families now have wonderful living space on their front porches. Just yesterday, two of the children staying at 1109 Plainview played with blocks on the kids table in front of the office – certainly a happy sight.

The St. Philip Ladies also came out to clean and prepare an apartment for a new family to move in. We love these ladies who are a regular volunteer group and HUGE help to FT in turning over apartments as one family moves on and another moves in.

Special Requests

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@families-together-nc.org

If you or your group might be interested in volunteer opportunities, reach out to Sadie Williams Sadie@FamiliesTogetherNC.org, our Volunteer Coordinator.

Brown Bag Ministry

Let hope fly

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

To learn more and sign up visit
our website:
st-philip.org/brown-bag-ministry



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>May 2022 Financial Summary</div>		
	Actual	Plan	%			
May 2022	\$ 35,241	\$ 47,708	74%			
Year to Date	\$238,777	\$240,289	99%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$33,769	\$ 42,083	80%	\$227,711	\$210,417	108%
Other Income	\$ 1,472	\$ 5,624	26%	\$ 11,066	\$29,872	37%
Total Income	\$35,241	\$ 47,708	74%	\$238,777	\$240,289	99%
Expenses	\$ 46,766	\$ 46,904	100%	\$217,455	\$239,942	91%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (11,525)	\$ 803		\$ 21,323	\$ 347	

The Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$575,993

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	2 7:00 pm AA
3 5:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration	4 Office Closed 	5 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry	7 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm NA	8 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	9 10:00 am Brown Bag 1:00 pm Sue Dale service 7:00 pm AA
10 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration	11 2:00 pm Staff 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	12 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13	14 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA	15 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	16 7:00 pm AA
17 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration	18	19 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 6:30 pm Dinner Group 6:30 pm Softball Game 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20	21 6:30 pm NA	22 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	23 10:00 am Brown Bag 7:00 pm AA
24 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Restoration	25 2:00 pm Staff	26 10:00 am Book Club 10:00 am Puzzle Group 6:30 pm Pub Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Worship	27	28 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA	29	30
31 10:00 am United in Worship 11:15 Fellowship time 3:00 pm Restoration						



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

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

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