

The Epistle

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022



Pastor's Message

We have reason to celebrate recently!

First, our Pub Ministry raised \$6,797.00 for the North Raleigh Ministry's Food Bank. What a wonderful gift! Thank you so much to all who gave; you are more than generous. Just think: we "shared the love of Christ," and hundreds of people were blessed. I am so fortunate to be a part of the ministry here with all of you. I thought we might raise around \$2,000, perhaps \$2,500. But we doubled or tripled that number. A special thank you goes out to our leader, Dave Wahlstrom.

Secondly, we just received 10 new members: Damon and Alisa Washington, John Fowlkes, Linda Shapiro, Marilyn Cooper, Charlotte Coley, Kai and Lauren Thurow, and their children, Kaden and Cameron Thurow. That brings us to a total of 34 new members this year! We have another five people who want to join, and so we will offer another New Members class, most likely in the spring. God has been very good to us at St. Philip, and we have the momentum of the Holy Spirit. Please introduce yourselves to our newest members and welcome them hospitably. Praise the Lord that we are growing in numbers and in discipleship.

And finally, John 1: 14 says, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us...full of grace and truth." The greatest gift of all was the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus the Christ. This is a holy, mysterious, and awesome (in the true sense of the word) time of the year. I pray that you may find hope and healing and peace this Advent and upcoming Christmas seasons. As we gaze at the beautiful faces and eyes of Niko Wang, Owen Woods, and Cameron Thurow, may we remember the baby Jesus – and how the transcendent God decided to take on human flesh and experience life as we do. In so many ways, our Christian faith is a profound one. And our journey together, following Christ, is a humbling and powerful one. I am joyful to be on it with you. And now "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."

Blessed Advent and – eventually – Merry Christmas to you all!

Pastor Tim

Hope

Love

Joy

Peace

Special Congregation Meeting

On Sunday, December 11, 2022, there will be a special congregation meeting. The meeting will be held in the main Sanctuary at 10:00 am (following the first service).

The items on the agenda for this meeting are the approval of the 2023 Budget and the approval of the Land Sale.

If you have not received your packet of information, please let the office know or [click here](#)

Thank You,
Kathy Cunningham
Council President

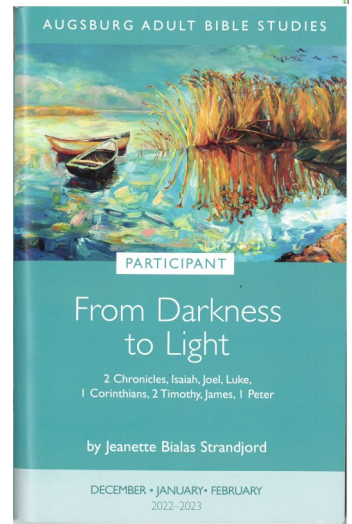
Augsburg Sunday

School Class

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

The class will use the Bible study guide, *From Darkness to Light*

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!



PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



WEDNESDAYS in ADVENT

10:30 am Bible Study
6:30 pm Prayer Service
7:00 pm Bible Study

In Person
Facebook Live
Zoom
[Click below for Zoom link](#)



St. Philip Lutheran Preschool

December brings lots of fun, JOY and praise to the preschool classrooms!! Santa visits the preschool on Friday, December 2nd from 11:00am – 1:00pm. There will be lots of games, activities and of course yummy cookies to eat with Santa!

Our children will be singing for the Saints and Sinners on Tuesday, December 13th.

We will have birthday parties for Jesus and share the Christmas story at our Christmas Program on Friday, December 16th at 9:30am in the sanctuary. All are welcome!!

We are blessed to be a 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.



December 13th at 11:00 am

Come to enjoy the Christmas luncheon!

The St. Philip Preschool children will sing!

The Dulcimer Darlings will perform!

Fellowship, Food, and Fun!

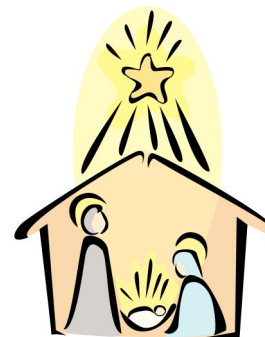
Please RSVP to Carole Mason by Friday,
12/8 @ 919-210-0727

\$7.00 lunch donation would be
appreciated

Have you thought of some programs
you'd like to see come to a
Saints & Sinners luncheon?

Let Frank know at 919-302-1812 or

bouknightf@yahoo.com



Family Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm 12/24

"The ABC's of Christmas"

Join us for a fun, family friendly Christmas Eve Worship service with our Crossing Band at 4pm on Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary.

We'll explore the ABC's of Christmas together in worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! See you then!

Messages from Kai

Kingdom Kids (grades K-5)

Kingdom Kids is our Children's Ministry at St. Philip. Kingdom Kids is relational, formative, and fun!

At St. Philip, we have a strong commitment to:

- ★ the growth of each child's spiritual development
- ★ child safety during all activities and events
- ★ a welcoming atmosphere
- ★ most of all, having fun learning about God and building friendships with one another.



Kingdom Kids (K-5) Fall 2022 Schedule

Dec. 11 – Interactive Christmas Theater & Dinner (congregational event for all ages) 4:30pm

Dec. 24 – Family Christmas Eve Worship Service 4:00pm

Questions? You can contact Kai Thurow at Kai@st-philip.org

Youth Group (grades 6-12)

Middle and High School can be messy — and we join in the mess with laughs, authentic community, and creativity.

Get ready for transformational trips and retreats, engaging youth group nights, service opportunities, and God's work in your life! Come join us in a place where you can be yourself and know that you belong.



Connect with our Youth Group

Youth Group Nights

Our youth group every other Sunday from 6:30-8pm for a chance to catch up with each other, to play some games, to enjoy a devotion together, and to occasionally take a deep dive into various faith and life topics.

Youth Group (6-12) Fall 2022 Schedule

Dec. 4 – Youth Group (grades 6-12) 6:30-8pm

Dec. 11 – Interactive Christmas Theater & Dinner (congregational event for all ages) 4:30pm

Dec. 18 – Youth Group (grades 6-12) 6:30-8pm

Dec. 24 – Family Christmas Eve Worship Service 4:00pm

Dec. 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service 8:00pm

Interactive Christmas Theater & Dinner

December 11th at 4:30 pm in Luther Hall.

All ages welcome!

Mark your calendars for a fun-filled hands-on afternoon where you can experience the Christmas story in a new way followed by a congregational dinner!

You don't want to miss this!

At 4:30pm we begin our Interactive Theater component where we will invite groups to re-enact a section of the Christmas story. (No one needs to learn any lines!)

We'll have a lot of costumes and props for people to use. In between each re-enactment we'll sing a lot of the classic Christmas Hymns together.

We hope everyone, regardless of age will come and join us!

At 5:30pm we'll have a congregational dinner with special food options for all ages.

For more information or questions, please contact Kai at Kai@st-philip.org



Christmas Eve

**Candlelight Worship
with Holy Communion**

4:00 pm—Family Worship Service
Contemporary Music

8:00 pm—Traditional Worship
Music led by Voices of Praise

Christmas Day

10:00 am—One Worship Service

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

At iHop on Six Forks Rd.

Tuesday 12/20/22
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 919-302-1812

Ladies Lunch

Will meet at 12:00 pm on Thursday, December 1st at First Watch.

Please contact Claire Muller to RSVP for the reservation.

919-752-6541 or clairegm855@gmail.com



Every 1st Thursday!

Fellowship Supper Group

We will not meet in the month of December. Rather in January we'll kick the year off with dinner with Men's Pub Ministry.

For more information contact

Carol Rogers

parakayaker@gmail.com

Everyone is invited!!

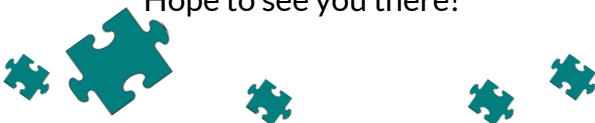


Puzzle Get Together

Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month, on **December 15th** 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!



Pub Ministry

The next time we'll get together will be in January. We will not meet in December.

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.

Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Dave Wahlstrom @ dave00256@gmail.com

Adult Book Club

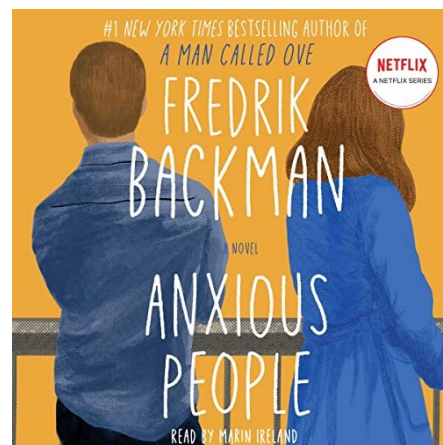
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting will be on January 24, 2023, at 10:00 in the Parlor—

We will be discussing *Anxious People* by Fredrick Backman. A poignant, charming novel about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they ever imagined.

The book is available from Amazon.

We hope to see you there, in the Parlor on January 24th at 10:00!



Sunday, January 1, 2023

One Service at 10:00 am

Holiday Smiles Program

Each year, Families Together has a special annual tradition that provides Christmas Gifts to children in their program who are experiencing hardship and even homelessness.

St. Philip has committed to asking people from our faith community to sponsor five children this year through their Holiday Smiles program.

As a sponsor, you will be provided the wish list of a child, which you will be able to pick up in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, December 4th.

Once you have purchased gifts with the wish list as your guide (a recommended \$50-\$75 per child), you'll drop those wrapped gifts off between Dec. 12-14th at St. Philip. We'll get those gifts to Families Together who will then pass the gifts to the parents of the child(ren) to give out on Christmas.

If you have any questions, please contact Kai Thurow at kai@st-philip.org





FAMILIES TOGETHER

a PLM organization

GIVE SKILLS

Lend your expertise and special skills. Families in our program will benefit from your help in areas such as tutoring, resume writing, and mock interviewing. We also need help from people with a knack for landscaping, carpentry, or gardening to give our properties ongoing TLC. Please reach out to Sara Karbley, our Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at Sara@FamiliesTogetherNC.org to explore opportunities.

SHARE OUR MISSION

Spread the word about the rise in family homelessness in our community and the need for our mission. Did you know we are on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter? Did you know we have a YouTube Channel? Our handle for all is @families2gether. Did you know we have a blog on our website? We need and welcome your help by staying informed about housing and homelessness in Wake County; by sharing, liking and commenting on our posts; and by encouraging your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members to join our efforts to help more families move from homelessness to home.

Please email Sara Karbley, the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for more information! at Sara@FamiliesTogetherNC.org

With the alarming community trends in housing and homelessness, a community-wide response is needed from those who share the belief that every family deserves a home and children should never have to wonder where they're going to sleep at night.

Here are some ways you can get in the spirit of giving and help local families move from homelessness to home by supporting Families Together.

GIVE TIME

Join or form a volunteer painting crew or a renovation site prep team. We need help at our Emergency Shelter apartments with painting decks and stairways. And we need help at the site of our soon-to-be transitional housing triplex with preparation for renovation inside and out. Contact Sara Karbley, our Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, at Sara@FamiliesTogetherNC.org for details.



Kid's Corner—We know that sometimes kids need a change of space - spending an hour in the same pew/chair is a LONG time to be in one spot. When that happens, we have a special room that you can check out together. As you walk out of our worship spaces you can follow the GREEN footprints to our Kid's Corner which is geared toward ages 0-4. In this room you will find a live stream of the worship service. Parents or Caregivers are asked to be present with your children.

Lutheran World Relief Quilting Group

The Quilters could use sheets in good condition-no stains or holes- for quilt backs. If you would like to donate sheets, please contact Barbara Burdette.

The Quilters meet 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 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



Brown Bag Ministry
Let hope fly

Brown Bag Ministry

BBM meets every month on the 2nd & 4th Saturday morning at 10:00 in Luther Hall to prepare and deliver lunches to neighbors at Cedar Point.

- ♦ This is a great opportunity to serve for the whole family!
- ♦ We need your hands to help make and distribute the lunches.
- ♦ Food donations are usually needed to round out what food comes from the NC Food Pantry, watch your email for donation needs.
- ♦ Questions? Email Stacey Bell at raleighbells@yahoo.com
- ♦ Sign up here: [Brown Bag Ministry](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

? Shiloh Restoration Church is an African Refugee congregation that worships here in the lower level of the education building on Sunday afternoons.

? The United Worship Service takes place on the 5th Sundays—On those Sundays we have One service at 10:00. Both the Crossing contemporary service at 9:00 and the Traditional service at 11:00 come together to worship as one body of St. Philip with One United service at 10:00.

? The Quilting Group here at St. Philip created 27 quilts this year. The quilts were blessed and will be sent all over the world through Lutheran World Relief.

An Evening with the Bishop

On Friday, November 4 a small group of members representing St. Philip joined the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Bishop Elizabeth Eaton at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary for a fundraising event to benefit three different ministries of the ELCA.

All of the Lutheran churches in Wake County were asked to bring 6-8 representatives to this event. It was a lovely evening with some great testimonials from beneficiaries of ELCA World Hunger, the ELCA Fund for Leaders, and the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. The evening's goal was to raise \$30,000 for these three unique programs that make a great difference in our world.



As we spend time reflecting this Advent season on the many blessings God gives us, St Philip is a meaningful one. St Philip means so much due to the leadership, care and work of our wonderfully dedicated staff in the worship and ministries that we enjoy and love.

You are invited to show your love and appreciation by contributing to the Staff Christmas Gift. You may place your gift in the offering plate and mark it as "Staff Christmas Gift". You may also give online as a one time gift through the website at the Staff Christmas Gift designation. Gifts will be excepted through January 15, 2023.

Please join me in saying "Thank You" to our extraordinary staff.

Blessings,
Kathy Cunningham, Council President



Message from Stewardship

This year the Stewardship Committee's theme has been What Can I BEE Doing? The theme expands on St. Philip's mission statement – Sharing the Love of Christ. The focus of the theme is on one of God's most magnificent creations, the bee! The bee, which is a metaphor for each member of the congregation, is selfless in Sharing the Love of Christ. The beehive, another metaphor for congregation, is made up on countless members doing God's work. Each bee within the congregation serves through the gift of their time, talents, and financial resources. Every bee and beehive have a purpose to serve something bigger than themselves. Be it the beehive or their surrounding ecosystem, another metaphor for community, by Sharing the Love of Christ throughout the congregation and throughout the community, we are able to enrich the lives of many and make our world a better place. The results of our servitude, can be seen each and every day in the most beautiful ways, whether it be a wonderful space to worship God, or a smile on the face of a child, our selflessness makes a difference. No matter how small or large the selfless act, the end result is like a drop of honey on the tongue.

Last year as many of you recall, we brought attention to all the ways our congregation shared their financial resources. The list was extensive and was overwhelming in how our members tithe their gifts to Share the Love of Christ. This year, we wanted to expand on that, by highlighting the selfless work our congregation goes about Sharing the Love of Christ at home and abroad. As you can see by all the bees hanging in the Narthex and in the hallway outside of the Crossing service, we have been very busy bees. The Stewardship Committee hopes to lift up all that we do in Sharing the Love of Christ, and hope that each and every one of you ask yourself, "What Can I BEE Doing?" with the hope you will find even more ways to utilize your time, talents, and financial resources to Share the Love of Christ within out congregation and throughout our community. We kicked off the stewardship campaign on Sunday, September 25 at both services. Throughout the month of October, we heard testimonies from St. Philip Council members about how God is working in their lives and the impact that St. Philip has on them.

The Stewardship Committee also sent of the 2023 Estimate of Giving Cards. Celebration Sunday was on October 23, again at both services, giving thanks for the pledges submitted and the many blessings received by St. Philip.

Thank you to all those who have found a way to continue giving to St. Philip over the last year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and goes a long way toward alleviating some of the financial constraints some churches are 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 precarious times. 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 Committee

Pastor Tim Poston

Julie Helmey, Chair

Frank Bouknight

Joe Edwards

Wayland Smedley

Dave Wahlstrom





If you would like to place a Poinsettia in the Church Sanctuary to decorate for the Christmas Season, please fill out this form. You may also fill out the online form—[click HERE](#).

Make your check payable to:
“St. Philip Lutheran Church” for \$11.00
and mark for “Poinsettias”.

The deadline is December 18th

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

By: _____

Phone# _____



MERRY
CHRISTMAS!
-Sam

Joy to the
World!
Jane

Happy Holidays!
Reagan
Peace on Earth
Bob

Gloria to God in the Highest
Pastor Jim

Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are pleased to provide this update on our financial progress.

Total income for October was \$44,896 for the month, or \$2,812 under plan, while expenses were \$49,526, or \$878 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$441,482, or \$39,096 under plan, while expenses were \$437,846 or \$43,218 under plan. Income exceeded expenses by just \$3,636, and expenses do not reflect budgeted reserves, which are not expensed until the end of the year.

While income improved in October compared to the previous month, it still fell a bit short of plan. In order for us to meet the financial plan that was approved by the Congregation last December, we'll need giving to increase measurably in November and December. We typically do see higher giving in the last two months of the year but, without that, we may not be able to fund budgeted reserves. Let's all prayerfully consider how each of us can help in some way to bring in the additional \$40,000 - \$50,000 needed to meet plan and keep all our ministries healthy. Yes, it's a big number, but by pulling together we can get it done!

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			
	Actual	Plan	%
October 2022	\$ 44,896	\$ 47,708	94%
Year to Date	\$441,482	\$480,578	92%

October 2022 Financial Summary

Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$43,174	\$ 42,083	103%	\$422,201	\$420,833	100%
Other Income	\$ 1,722	\$ 5,624	31%	\$ 19,281	\$59,744	32%
Total Income	\$44,896	\$ 47,708	94%	\$441,482	\$480,578	92%
Expenses	\$ 49,526	\$ 50,404	98%	\$437,846	\$481,064	91%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (4,630)	\$ (2,697)		\$ 3,636	\$ (487)	

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	2 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	3 7:00 pm AA
4 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Council Information Meeting 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 12:30 pm Council Information Meeting 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30pm Youth Group	5 1:00 pm Staff	6 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Council Information Meeting	7 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	8 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	9 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	10 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
11 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Congregation Meeting 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 4:30 pm Interactive Christmas Theater & Dinner 6:30 pm Congregation Council	12 1:00 pm Staff 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	13 11:00 am Saints & Sinners 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	14 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	15 10:00 am Puzzle Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	16 10:00 am Al-Anon 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	17 7:00 pm AA
18 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30pm Youth Group	19 11:30 am Staff Christmas Lunch	20 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	21	22 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	23 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	24 4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve worship 7:00 pm AA 8:00 pm Christmas Eve worship
25 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration	26 Office Closed	27 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	28	29 6:30 pm NA	30 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	31 7:00 pm AA



Rev. Tim Poston
Senior Pastor
Pastor@st-philip.org

Kai Thurow
Outreach & Youth
Ministries Coordinator
Kai@st-philip.org

Regan Wang
Organist/Pianist
chuhrare@gmail.com

919-846-2992
www.St-Philip.org

In person Office Hours:
Mon, Wed, & Fri
9:00 —4:00
Tues & Thurs (Virtual)
9:00—4:00

fyi

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Church, Raleigh



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St. Philip Lutheran Church

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TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV