

THE EPISTLE

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY 2023

Pastor's Message

Happy New Year! I pray that you are in good health and spirits as we embark together upon another year of life and of the ministry of "sharing the love of Christ."

I have been your pastor now for three years (can you believe that? My, how time flies.). We have managed our way relatively well through an unprecedented pandemic during that time. A silver lining to that otherwise difficult time is that we were able to make many technological advances. Our worship services – as well as many other meetings – are now available on Zoom and Facebook Live. That is a great blessing and luxury for us, and we have a substantial following via those avenues.

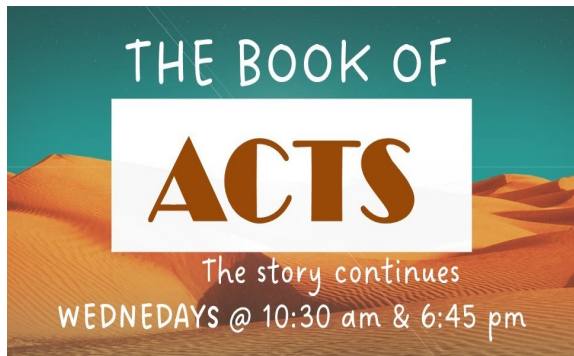
However, I would like to challenge you. Many people have not returned to in-person worship in almost three years because of the ease of viewing us online. Our virtual options were necessary during the pandemic and will remain with us moving forward. But they were never meant to take the place of in-person worship. I consider our Zoom and Facebook options to be primarily for those who are sick, out-of-town, or those who have anxiety in crowds. I never thought it would replace in-person worship, but for some of us, it has. I would like to challenge you to return to worship in-person this new year. There is something to be said for communal worship, for seeing people's faces up close and shaking their hand or hugging them during the passing of the peace.

Receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion, the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, is absolutely central to Christian belief and practice, and yet you have to be present physically to receive it (at least here at St. Philip). Regular communal worship is at the heart of Christian discipleship.

We have received 34 new members this past year, and if you don't attend and participate in in-person worship, you don't know them. And they don't know you. And each group is the poorer for it. I would also like to challenge you not to attend in-person worship only on the occasions when you're serving in a particular capacity. We certainly need and appreciate your service in person, but you are freer to really worship when you don't have those particular responsibilities -- and we want to see you and be around you more than when you are fulfilling a particular task.

Put quite simply, we miss you. We need you. You are a very important part of our community of faith, and not simply a "sideline observer." We are impoverished by your absence. Each and every week. Hebrews 10: 24-25 reads, "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." Let's make 2023 a year of resuming the practice of in-person worship. Let's make 2023 a year of embodying Hebrews 10: 24-25. I look forward to seeing you soon. In person.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tim



Pastor's Bible Study

Everyone is welcome to join Pastor Tim's study of the early Church with the book of Acts telling the story.

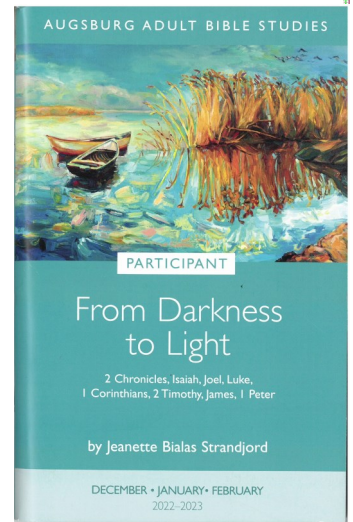
On Wednesdays at 10:30 and 6:45 in the Music Room. We will meet in person in and will utilize Zoom for those who may not be able to attend. Details available from the church office—
919-846-2992 or church@st-philip.org

If you haven't attended the study yet, that's okay join us anyway!

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!



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!

Crossing Praise Team

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

Voices of Praise Adult Choir

The choir sings in Sunday traditional services. Rehearsal is at 7:00 pm on Thursdays. Contact [Bob Petters](#) to learn more!

The Bells of St. Philip

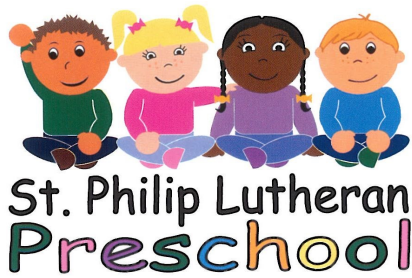
The Handbell Choir practice on Sundays at 5:00 in the Sanctuary. Contact [Regan Wang](#) to learn more!

St. Philip College Student

Get-Together January 3rd 5-8pm

Before our college students head back to school for the start of their next semesters, we'll be having a casual get-together at Cathryn Hewett's home for some fellowship, food, and fun!

Please text either Kai 919-971-1765 or Cathryn 919-606-2839 with questions.



January 10 @ 11:30 am

The next luncheon is on Tuesday, January 10th at 11:30 am. The program this month will be presented by Gabi Angelini, founder of Gabi's Grounds— a company powered by Special Abilities.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a yummy lunch, fellowship.

Please contact Carole Mason to let her know if you can come in order to plan for the food by 1/7/23 @ 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

The preschool children enjoyed celebrating the week before their Christmas break with a birthday party for Jesus and they enjoyed singing about Jesus for their family and friends at our annual Christmas program on December 16th. Their sweet voices filled the sanctuary with lots of love, JOY and smiles!! You are always welcomed to join us for our programs or just stop by for a little visit....and BIG hugs too!!

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year begins January 3rd for preschool families and church members. It will open to the public on January 17th. We would like to fill our classes to capacity so please tell your friends and neighbors to come and visit us at the preschool.

You may contact Leigh Anne Barham at 919-870-5841 or 919-818-9585 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.



Preschool Christmas Program



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) Winter 2023 Schedule

Jan. 22 – Kingdom Kids (K-5) 4-5pm

Feb. 12 – Kingdom Kids (K-5) 4-5pm

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



Youth Group (grades 6-12)

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 meets 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) Winter 2023 Schedule

Jan. 8 – Summer Mission Trip Interest Meeting 1
10:15am

Jan. 8 – Youth Group 6:30-8pm

Jan. 11 – Summer Mission Trip Interest Meeting 2
8pm

Jan. 29 – Youth Group 6:30-8pm

Feb. 5 – Youth Group 6:30-8pm

Feb. 19 – Youth Group 6:30-8pm

Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm

Feb. 24-26 – NC LYO Assembly
Register ahead of time

LYO Assembly

Feb. 24-26 (grades 6-12)

Registration for our annual trip to the NC Synod Statewide LYO Assembly in Greensboro, NC is open!

Registration closes on January 22.

Contact Kai@st-philip.org for more information.



Summer Mission Trip Interest Meetings (current grades 6-12)

Calling all current 6th-12th grade youth. Come to one of our two interest meetings on Sunday, January 8 at 10:15am between worship services & on Wednesday, January 11 at 8pm via Zoom to hear more about our mission trip this summer! For more information or questions, please contact Kai@st-philip.org or text 919-971-1765

Interactive Christmas Theater

We had a fantastic time seeing and helping in the retelling of the Christmas story at this event.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and participated! You're energy and enthusiasm helped make the evening fun.

A special thank you to the dinner crew led by Deb Coccoarelli, and Regan Wang for playing piano for us!



Faith & Fellowship

Ladies Lunch

Will meet at 12:00 pm on Thursday, January 5th at Red Lobster

Please contact Claire Muller to RSVP for the reservation.

919-752-6541 or clairegm855@gmail.com

Every 1st Thursday!



Monthly Breakfast Group—

At iHop on Six Forks Rd.

Tuesday 1/17/23
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

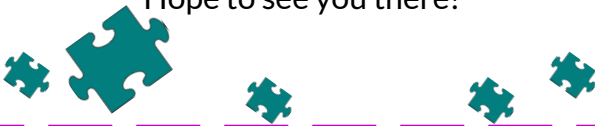


Puzzle Get Together

Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month, on January 20th 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 &

Fellowship Supper Group

On January 24th at 7:00 pm our two groups & spouses will meet for dinner together at Nantucket Grill!

With the emphasis on Christian fellowship and strengthening the bonds between groups at St. Philip, we hope current members *and those of you who haven't joined in the fellowship of either group*, will come and break bread!

Everyone is welcome,
we hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Dave Wahlstrom @ dave00256@gmail.com

Let us know if you can come—
for reservation purposes.



Falls River Town Center



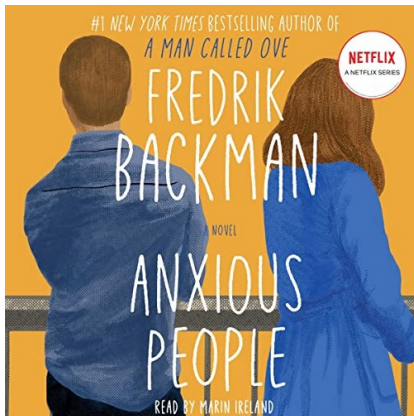


Christmas Eve Family
Worship Service
The ABC'S of Christmas

Christmas Eve Late
Candlelight
Worship Service



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!

Holiday Smiles Program—Thank You!

This year St. Philip sponsored five children through the Families Together Holiday Smiles Program which provided gifts for 400 children in our community this Christmas.

We want to thank you for your generosity and look forward to taking a much bigger role in next year's Holiday Smiles Program!

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



Welcome to our New Members!

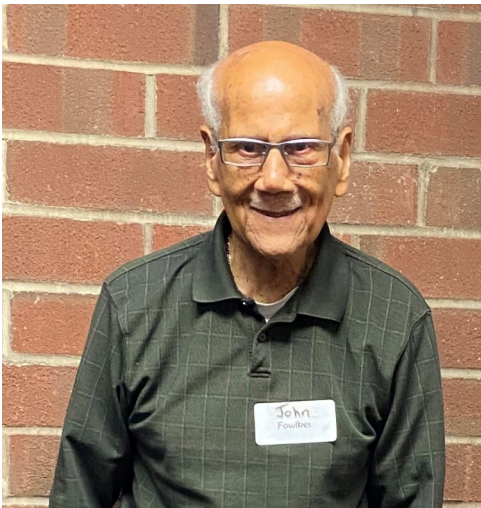
New Member Class of November, 2022



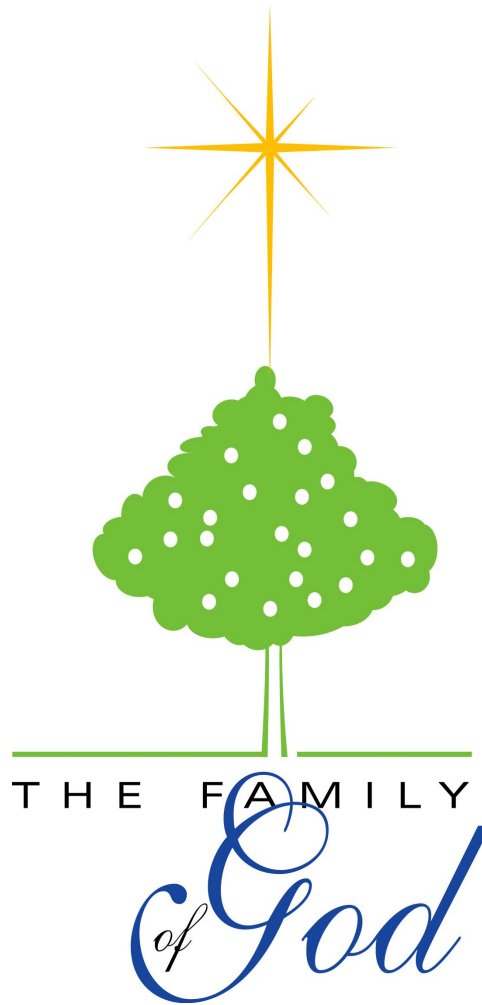
Charlotte Coley



Marilyn Cooper



John Fowlkes



Linda Shapiro



Alisa Washington

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 last year. The quilts were blessed and will be sent all over the world through Lutheran World Relief.



**FAMILIES
TOGETHER**
a PLM organization

Holiday Happenings at Families Together

Thanksgiving Drive:

Thank you to all the kind souls who gave generously to our Thanksgiving Drive this year. Because of so many donations, we were able to provide 60 families with Thanksgiving Meals! Our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude for everyone who helped provide food items and gift cards!

Board Holiday Luncheon 2022:

Our wonderful Board of Directors hosted a fun and delicious annual appreciation luncheon for the staff team - the first time it was held live and in person since 2019! We want to thank our Board - many of whom represent Lutheran churches - for supporting us in all the work we do to help families in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

Holiday Smiles 2022:

Our amazing Holiday Smiles sponsors are delivered carloads of gifts for children in our program. Nearly 200 kids have been sponsored and will find special gifts from their wish lists under the tree on Christmas morning. This not only brings joy to the children but relieves some of the stress on their parents as their families transition from homelessness to home.

Giving Tuesday 2022:

We want to thank all who made our Triple Impact Day on Giving Tuesday, November 29th, a giant success. Holiday spirit and cheer was shared from 133 individuals who gave \$25,568! When we added \$51,000 earned from the Match Fund, community giving for the day totaled an amazing \$76,568! These funds will have a tremendous impact on the lives of local children as we help more families in our community move from homelessness to home.

To express our thanks, we created a YouTube video to share our gratitude over the success of this year's Giving Tuesday: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qwM-U9Mx70>

The Need:

There is an urgent need for shelter for families in our community, earlier this year we started to expand our Emergency Shelter program in response to the ever-growing need for housing. Now it is fully operational with 15 families in extended-stay motel rooms and 6 families in the FT on-site shelter units.

When you give, your contribution will go towards helping homeless families access Emergency Shelter and other urgently needed specialized housing solutions provided by Families Together.

Volunteer Updates:

In the last month, volunteers have been busy supporting our mission and we are so grateful for their special support.

Two new volunteers picked up a donated fridge in the dark after they got off work!

American Heritage Girl Troop NC0244 took on a project to purchase supplies, build, and assemble an awesome toy shed which is a wonderful addition to the grounds of our Emergency Shelter as it provides a much-needed place to store toys that kids can access while staying with us.

And the Athens High School football team swooped in after school one day to remove old appliances and flooring from a triplex as we prep it for renovation.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Interested in doing what you can to help local families? Please look below and let us know if you'd like to learn more or sign up to help with any of these projects that need volunteer support:

Cleaning apartments during the turnover from one family to the next

Painting FT apartment units

Organizing and cleaning our pantry

If you have a home appliance that is new or gently used and wish to make a difference in a family's life by donating it, or wish to participate in one of our project needs, please reach out to our Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Sara Karbley at sara@FamiliesTogetherNC.org.

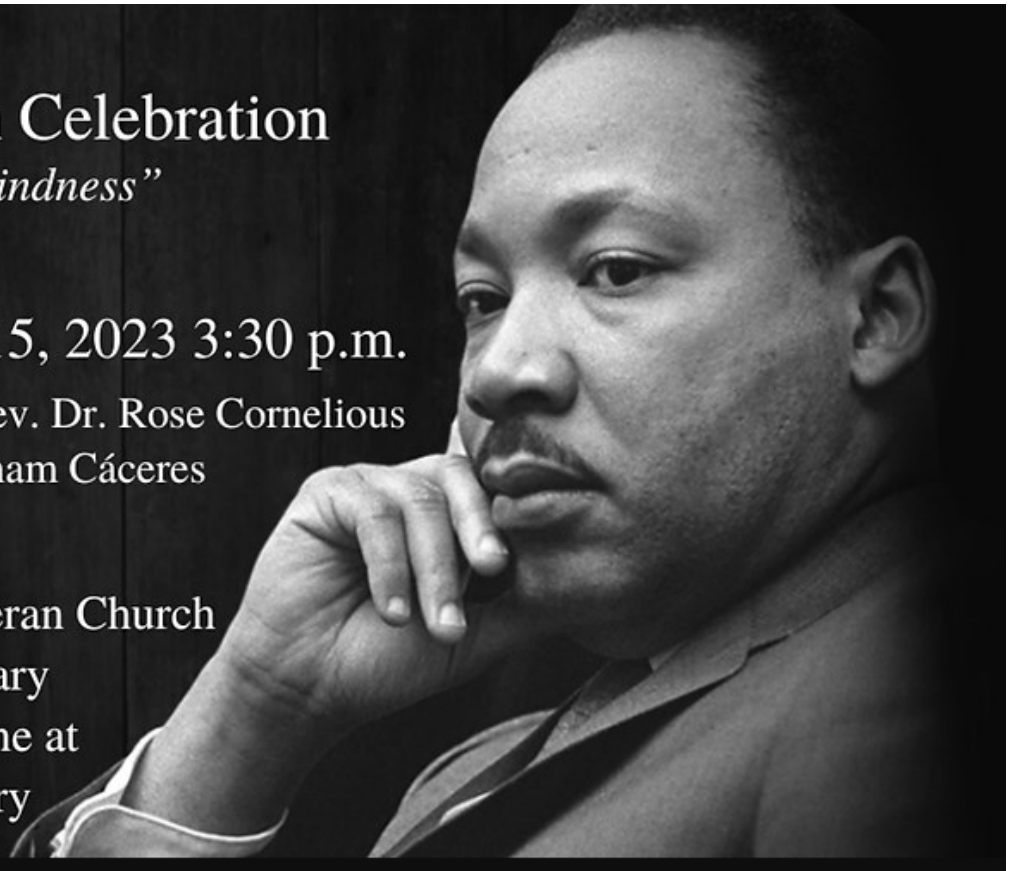
MLK Interfaith Celebration

“Do Justice—Love Kindness”

Sunday, January 15, 2023 3:30 p.m.

With guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Rose Cornelious
and musician Dr. Abraham Cáceres

Christ the King Lutheran Church
600 Walnut Street, Cary
ctkcary.com and online at
youtube.com/@ctkcary



Giving			
	Actual	Plan	%
November 2022	\$ 55,696	\$ 47,708	117%
Year to Date	\$497,178	\$528,285	94%

November 2022 Financial Summary
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Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$52,348	\$ 42,083	124%	\$474,550	\$462,917	103%
Other Income	\$ 3,348	\$ 5,624	60%	\$ 22,628	\$65,369	35%
Total Income	\$55,696	\$ 47,708	117%	\$497,178	\$528,285	94%
Expenses						
Expenses	\$ 54,400	\$ 45,404	120%	\$486,992	\$526,469	93%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 1,296	\$ 2,303		\$ 10,186	\$ 1,817	

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Worship with Lessons & Carols	2 New Year Day Office Closed	3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	4 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	5 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	6 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	7 1:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA
8 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 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Congregation Council	9 1:00 pm Staff 1:00 pm Columbarium 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry 6:30 pm Property Team	10 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Preschool Board	11 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	12 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	13 10:00 am Al-Anon 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	14 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
15 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed	17 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	18 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	19 10:00 am Puzzle Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	20 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	21 8:30 am NA workshop 7:00 pm AA
22 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 6:30 pm Kingdom Kids	23 1:00 pm Staff 7:00 pm Worship & Music	24 10:00 am Book Club 7:00 pm Men's Pub Ministry & the Fellowship Dinner Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	25 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study (GROW)	26 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	27 10:00 am Al-Anon 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	28 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 7:00 pm AA
29 10:00 am United Worship 11:30 am Annual Congregation Meeting 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Youth Group	30 1:00 pm Staff	31 7:00 pm Boy Scouts				



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



Bob Petters
Choir Director
stphilipchurchchoir@gmail.com

Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

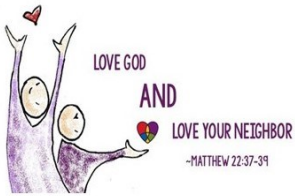
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St. Philip Lutheran Church

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