

THE EPISTLE

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH 2023



Pastor's Message

Do you remember the old cliché about this month, that “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb?” Oh, how that used to be true in my youth and young adulthood! It’s been a while since I’ve either heard that phrase or experienced it to be true. With warming temperatures all over, I’m not even sure February “comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.”

We are currently in the season of Lent. I hope and pray that you have a meaningful 40 day season of introspection, reflection, and repentance. I have already begun turning off my car radio as I drive (so that I drive in silence) and turning on my TV at home much less (so that I have fewer distractions and background noise and more quiet time). It’s a change already from the norm, that’s for sure. I hope also that you have picked up your Lenten devotional booklet, “Water and Spirit,” which offers you a brief Scripture, reflection, and prayer for each day. The Scriptures are all from John’s Gospel.

One could say, during this Lenten season of spring, that Jesus “came in like a lion and went out like a lamb.” Our Sunday Gospel lessons will present Jesus teaching spiritual rebirth to Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin (high council), revealing his identity as Messiah to a Samaritan woman by a well, healing a man born blind, and – finally – raising Lazarus from the dead. He is increasingly performing deeds of power. He is a lion – the Lion of the tribe of Judah, as the Bible refers to him. Then comes Palm Sunday, when he enters Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, humbly – not exactly riding a chariot in a display of regal power.

Then, on Friday, he will die on a cross, outside the city gates. He is a lamb – the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Much like March used to, Jesus “comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.”

May you experience both the powerful lion (of healing and transformation) and the meek lamb (of humility and peace) this Lenten season. We follow Jesus, this season and always.

God’s peace,
Pastor Tim

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 29, 2023

5-7:00 pm

Founders’ Dinner

Celebrating

60 **Years**

of

Faith & Fellowship

St. Philip Lutheran Church

Wednesdays DURING LENT

Taizé Worship
Beginning March 1st @ 6:30 pm
in the Sanctuary, Facebook or Zoom

Use Sunday's Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/480739190>

This type of service is intended to be a gift for us to find some space in our busy lives for reflection and contemplation. We hope you will join us in person or online, using the Zoom link that we use for Sunday worship in the sanctuary. [Click here](#)

Sharing the love of Christ at St. Philip..... a churchwide Lenten journey

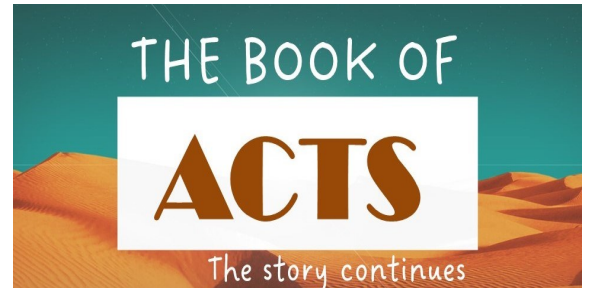
Water and Spirit provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday).

Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of John.

The writers then bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

If you haven't already, please pick up your copy from the Welcome Center & Kepley Hall!

Let's prepare together during this miraculous time of Lent.

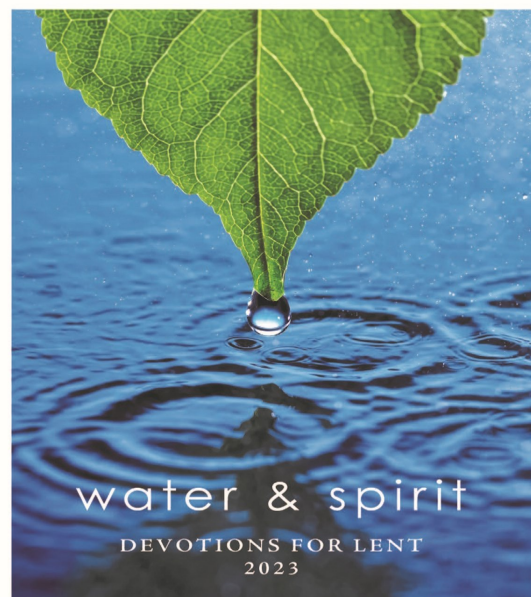


Pastor's Bible Study

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

On Wednesdays, *beginning on March 1st* we will meet at 10:30 & 7:00 pm in person in the Music Room 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!



CHURCH *Anniversary* PREPARATIONS

St. Philip is 60 years old this year!

Would you like to help plan celebrations?
You are invited *and needed* to join a team of folks gathering together to brainstorm ways of recognizing this milestone and sharing the love of Christ!

Whether you are a new or life-long member
you are welcome!

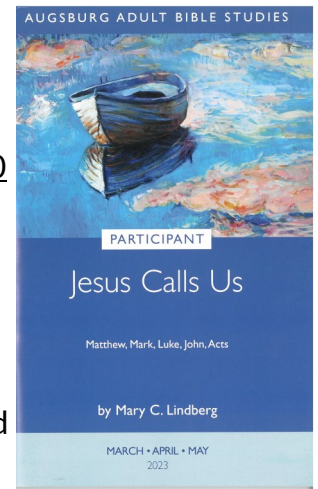
Please contact the church office for more
information and to volunteer!

Church@St-Philip.org

Augsburg Sunday School Class

Sunday mornings, at 10:00
in the Music Room. The
class will use the Bible
study guide,
Jesus Calls Us

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!



Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

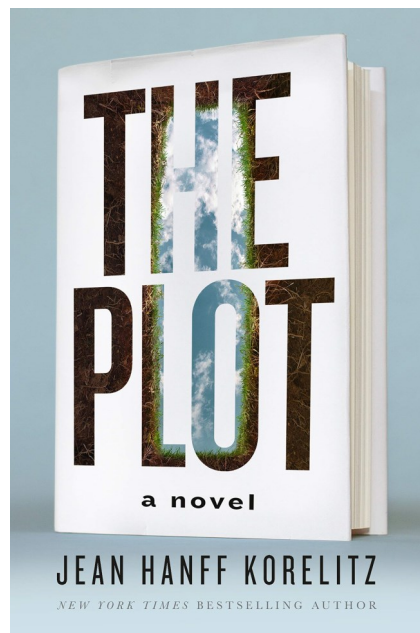
Our next meeting will be on March 28th at 10:00 in the Parlor—
We will be discussing *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz.

The Plot is a psychologically
suspenseful novel about a
story too good not to steal,
and the writer who steals it.

The book is available at the
Wake County Library.

The book is available from
Amazon and the Wake County
Library.

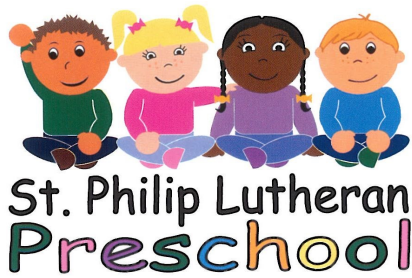
We hope to see you there,
in the Parlor on March 28th at
10:00!



SHAMROCK

St. Patrick used the shamrock
to teach people about the
Godhead. Holding up a
shamrock, he challenged them,
“Is this one leaf, or three?”

Inevitably, people replied that it
was both, prompting St. Patrick
to draw the analogy that so, too,
is God: one God in three
Persons — the Holy Trinity.



February was filled with LOVE as we celebrated Valentine's Day showing our friends and families lots of love in many ways! At the end of the month, we began learning about those that help us in our community. A dental hygienist and dentist visited our classes and taught us how to take care of our teeth. It was lots of FUN!!

In March, we will continue learning about more community helpers as paramedics from Wake County EMS will visit us and we will go inside the ambulance, too! Also, we will visit Fire Station 22 and learn about fire safety!! We will have "Character Day" and dress up as a character from our favorite storybook, parade around the school, enjoy singing songs and reading books with our friends!

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is ongoing! Some of the classes are filled but if you or a friend would be interested in attending next year please contact us at 919-870-5841 or 919-818-9585. We have wonderful nurturing teachers, large classrooms and an atmosphere of love and caring!!

Thank you ALL for your continued support, prayers and love for the preschool!!

Please visit st-philip.org/preschool for more information about the program and the registration form.

March 14th @ 11:30 am

The next luncheon is on Tuesday, March 14th at 11:30 am. The program this month is a mystery! Guaranteed to be interesting & charming.

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 2/5/23 @ 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

February Saints & Sinners

Presentation by Greg Gulley. Greg runs a non-profit that's been working in Ukraine for decades helping set up programs for orphans.



Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

At iHop on Six Forks Rd.



Tuesday 3/21/23
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

Ladies Lunch

Will meet at 12:00 pm on Thursday, March 2nd at Brigg's Great Beginnings.

Please contact Claire Muller to RSVP for the reservation.

919-752-6541 or clairegm855@gmail.com

Every 1st Thursday!



Pub Ministry

Pub Ministry will get together again on Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 PM. Watch the announcements for details.

Contact Dave Wahlstrom at dave00256@gmail.com for more information.

Everyone is welcome to join in!

Puzzle Get Together

Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month, on March 16th 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

Watch announcements & email for where our next dinner on March 28th will be at.

For more information contact Carol Rogers parakayaker@gmail.com

Everyone is invited!!



Our Softball Team will be kicking off its 2023 campaign in April 2023. We are looking to add teammates to our roster. Our primary interest is to build great fellowship.

Minimum age to play is 14 years of age as of 4/1/2023. If under 18, the athlete must have a parent or legal guardian physically accompany the athlete in order to play.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Mike Davis at mikedavisconsulting149@outlook.com or texting at 321-356-6673.

Each member of the 2022 team will be required to pay a small individual fee to cover the cost of league dues and game softballs.

We expect to compete, enjoy fellowship, and grow our fan base this year beyond 2023.

The regular season will run from mid-April through June with Playoffs typically through the end of July.

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

March 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

March 5 - Youth Group 6:30-8pm

March 19 - Youth Group 6:30-8pm

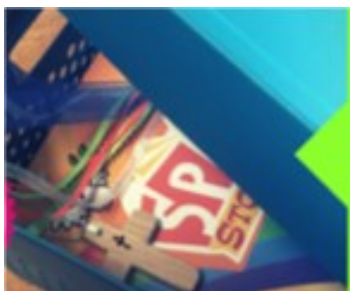
Lent @ Home Kits

This Lenten season we have Lent Kits that have activities and devotions for children.

They will be available for pick up this Sunday, March 5th at worship! If you are unable to pick them up this Sunday, we will make sure to mail them to you!

If you have questions, please contact Kai.

Questions? [Contact Kai](#).



Coming Soon! Young Worship Tool Kits

Our Young Worship Tool Kits are designed to help children to engage in different parts of worship more fully. Each kit will have some quiet items in them with symbols on them that will match symbols in our bulletins or on our worship slides.

We hope to make these available by the end of the March. Keep an out for more information soon!



FAMILIES TOGETHER
a PLM organization

Upcoming Donation Drive:

Whether the groundhog sees his shadow or not, it's time for spring cleaning! We will be hosting a cleaning supply drive to provide household items for our families once they move into a new unit. We are looking to collect items such as:

- Clorox wipes
- Bleach
- Brooms/dust pans
- Paper towels
- Swiffer mops
- Swiffer dusters
- Trash bags

Reach out to our Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at sara@famielstogethernc.org. The drive will last from March through April.

City Council Members visit Families Together:

On February 14th, Families Together leadership welcomed two new Raleigh City Council members for a tour of Families Together. We thank Council Member Jane Harrison, from District D, and Council Member Christina Jones, from District E, for taking time to visit with our team and learn firsthand about the urgent need for housing and homeless services for the growing number of families with children experiencing homelessness in our community.

Some of the alarming statistics we shared: A recent study shows that it takes the income of four people working full-time minimum wage jobs to cover monthly rent in our city. In January 2023, Raleigh had the highest rate of increase in rental prices in the nation. And in all of Wake County, 45% of renters are cost burdened because they pay more than 30% of income on housing.

We applaud the commitment of these City Council Members and others on Council to address our community's housing crisis and stand ready to partner with them on our mutual goals to improve housing affordability and make our community better for all.



April 22, 2023 10:00 am—12:00 pm

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. To help us plan for materials and supplies for this class, please sign up [Click Here](#) or call the church office .

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](#)

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

Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the Finance Committee, here is our first report of the new year. Because of your faithful and generous giving and God's provision last year, we begin 2023 in a sound financial position.

Through January, our income was \$51,454, or \$4,014 above plan, while expenses were \$46,975, or \$10,767 below plan. Expenses exceeded income by \$4,479.

The income number for January gives us a very nice start to the year and expenses were well under plan because we were able to use dedicated funds for an air conditioning unit replacement rather than it being a current expense.

Thank you for all you do! Please continue your generous support of our ministries at St. Philip so we can grow in our calling to serve our Lord and His people. 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 style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> January, 2023 Financial Summary </div>		
	Actual	Plan	%			
January, 2023	\$ 51,454	\$ 47,440	108%			
Year to Date	\$ 51,454	\$ 47,440	108%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$49,653	\$ 42,500	117%	\$49,653	\$ 42,500	117%
Other Income	\$ 1,801	\$ 4,940	36%	\$ 1,801	\$ 4,940	36%
Total Income	\$51,454	\$ 47,440	108%	\$51,454	\$ 47,440	108%
Expenses	\$ 46,975	\$ 57,743	81%	\$ 46,975	\$ 57,743	81%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 4,479	\$ (10,303)		\$ 4,479	\$ (10,303)	

The 2022 Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$577,374



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible	2 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	3 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	4 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
5 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 1:00 pm Staff 6:30 pm Property Team	7 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	8 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible	9 10:00 am Quilting Group 4:00 pm Chuck Wolfe Visitation 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	10 10:00 am Al-Anon 11:00 am Chuck Wolfe Memorial Service 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	11 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
12 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 4:00 pm Kingdom Kids 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Congregation Council	13 1:00 pm Staff 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	14 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Preschool Board	15 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	16 10:00 am Puzzle Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Stewardship 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	17 10:00 am Al-Anon 6:45 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	18 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
19 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 6:30 pm Youth Group	20 1:00 pm Staff	21 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	22 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	23 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	24 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	25 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
26 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	27 1:00 pm Staff 7:00 pm Worship & Music	28 10:00 am Book Club 6:30 pm Fellowship Dinner Group 7:00 pm Men's Pub Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	29 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	30 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Crossing 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	31 10:30 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	



Easter Lilies

If you would like to place a lily in the Church Sanctuary to decorate for the Easter season, complete this form and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

Check payable to "St. Philip Lutheran Church" for \$13.00 and note "Easter Lilies" in the memo line. If you would like to donate to the large palms please indicated below.

[To order online click here](#)

The deadline is Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2nd

Number of Lilies _____ Total \$ _____

Large Palm Donation Total \$ _____

Given in Honor of _____

Given in Memory of _____

By _____

Phone _____

Please print clearly the name(s) will be in the bulletin on Easter

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

Bob Petters
Choir Director
stphilipchurchchoir@gmail.com

Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

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

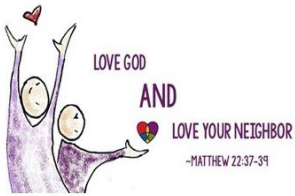
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Church, Raleigh



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WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST!

St. Philip Lutheran Church

7304 Falls of Neuse Road
Raleigh, NC 27615
919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org



HOLY WEEK

Palm Passion Sunday—

9:00 Crossing & 11:00 Traditional

Maundy Thursday— 12 noon & 7:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae— 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm