



The Epistle

May, 2023

St. Philip Lutheran Church

Pastor's Message

By the time you read this, we will have just concluded the first part of our 60-year anniversary celebration as a church! Literally within the past two days, we will have celebrated all our charter members (from 1963) and founding members (up until 1973) with a "Founders' Dinner" featuring a marvelous menu, meaningful fellowship, sharing of fond memories, great entertainment, and inspirational speakers. We remain so proud of our own Chad Rimmer, one of three ordained ministers this congregation has produced, who is now the Dean of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (one of eight ELCA seminaries in our country) and was our keynote speaker. Susan Kepley, the widow of founding Pastor Bob Kepley, fittingly celebrated a milestone birthday that same day.

At worship the following day, we continued to celebrate our founders as well as welcome four of our newest members: Don and Stephanie Seeber, from the NC coast; Katie Snyder, from Oregon; and Krysta Billock, from Michigan! We are so excited to have them on board here at St. Philip! We have received 38 new members over the past year and a half, and we are grateful that God keeps on blessing us with numerous weekly visitors, some of whom feel the call to join us here in mission and ministry. To God be the glory! A special reception was held immediately following worship to honor both our founders and our newest members.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the team that planned this entire celebration: so, for all who prepared, cooked, served, cleaned up, presented, greeted, etc., etc., etc. – thank you!

If that weren't enough, the good news continues. We are embarking on a spring campaign here at St. Philip to bless Families Together in their mission of transitioning families with children from homelessness to stable housing. St. Philip was intimately involved with the founding of Families Together (the former Pan-Lutheran Ministries) many years ago.

Last year, the larger St. Philip family (including families, friends, and colleagues of St. Philip members) raised around \$60,000 to support the Families Together campaign, an amount nearly equal to the total amount raised by seven other local Lutheran churches combined! We are clearly "punching above our weight." This year, we're looking to up the ante to \$100,000. It looks like we may meet that goal and perhaps even exceed it. What would that mean in terms of tangible impact? It would mean that St. Philip would be responsible for housing 10 families – and 50 total people – who were formerly homeless. What an opportunity! What a blessing! What a way to "Share the Love of Christ!" We invite you to please give a donation to Families Together this upcoming week if possible. You may give to them directly or through St. Philip.

Either way, please make sure to designate your gift to Families Together and make mention that you are a St. Philip member or donor. There are extravagant matching funds available, so that your contribution would be at least tripled.

On the heels of last fall's bounteous contribution of over \$6,000 to North Raleigh Ministries to help with their food drive to feed the hungry (our donation fed hundreds and hundreds of people), we are becoming more generous with our resources here.

Continued...

God has blessed us abundantly, and we are beginning to deepen our faith, increase our discipleship, and grow closer to God and neighbor in a spirit of sacrificial love. Simply put, I love "Sharing the Love of Christ" with you here in this place.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tim

Celebrating
60 of FAITH & FELLOWSHIP
YEARS

The Founders Dinner was attended by 115 people!



Charter & Founder Members' & Families



Pictorial Directory

Let's Update St. Philip's Picture Directory!

The last church directory that we created was in 2016! We've all changed a bit over the last 7 years—and we have many new members. What has also changed is HOW we can create a new one! Okay we know this is a subject that makes most of us uncomfortable but admittedly we like to have the directories. We can easily do this in a more comfortable way.

Our member database (Elexio) already serves as a directory – search for someone and you'll also see their picture, if they participated in the previous directory. It is a fantastic way to put names with faces – for all of us! In addition to the online directory, we will print directories upon request.

All you need to do is submit a picture of yourselves to the church office, (a selfie?!). By doing it this way – you can take several photos and choose the one to submit! Family pictures are the best as the directory is set by a shared picture such as husband and wife, family group, and individuals. Keep in mind that the photos will be cropped in order to see faces clearly, so try to not send panoramic – scenic photos.

We can also help those who would rather come to church to have your photo taken!

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Jane in the office at admin@st-philip.org

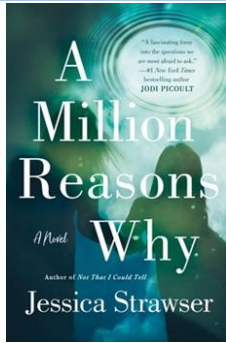


Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting will be on May 23rd at 10:00 in the Parlor—

We will be discussing reading *A Million Reasons Why* by Jessica Strawner



The story of two women who discover a bond between them that will change both their lives forever. When two strangers are linked by a mail-in DNA test, it's an answered prayer--that is, for one half sister. For the other, it will dismantle everything she knows to be true. But as they step into the unfamiliar realm of sisterhood, the roles will reverse in ways no one could have foreseen.

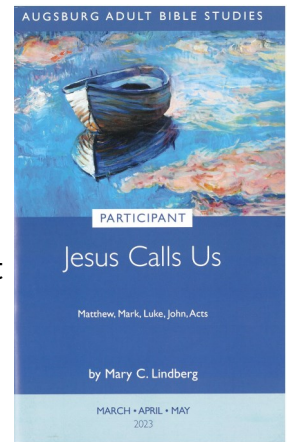
The book is available at the Wake County Library.

We hope to see you there, in the Parlor on May 23rd at 10:00!

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!

SAINTS & SINNERS

Columbarium Work Day



May 9th @ 11:30 am

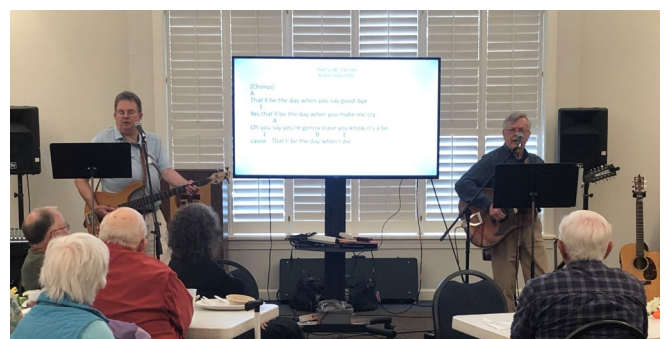
The next luncheon is on Tuesday, May 9th at 11:30 am. The program this month will be a presentation about North Raleigh Ministries.

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 5/5/23 @ 919-210-0727

\$7.00 lunch donation would be appreciated

Ed Peterson & Mike Maness led a sing along!



Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

At iHop on Six Forks Rd.

Tuesday 5/16
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



12:00 pm on Thursday, May 4th at Saints & Scholars, Spring Forest Rd.

Please contact Claire Muller to RSVP for the reservation.

919-752-6541 or clairegm855@gmail.com

Every 1st Thursday!

Hope to see you there!

Pub Ministry

Pub Ministry will get together again on Tuesday, 5/23 at 6:30 pm at Saints & Scholars.

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 May 18th 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!



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 2023 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.

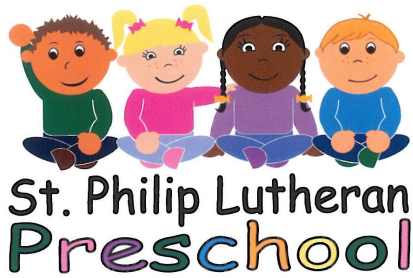
The regular season will run from mid-April through June with Playoffs typically through the end of July.



Our next dinner
6:30 pm on May 24th at Bahama Breeze.

For more information contact Carol Rogers parakayaker@gmail.com

Everyone is invited!!



Our school year at St. Philip Preschool has flown by as we begin our last month of school. In April, we had our Spring Art Show where parents viewed and bought their children’s artwork. The funds we raised will be used for art supplies, books for our library and playground updates!

May is a very special month as we honor the Mothers of our preschoolers with Muffins for Moms and Mother’s Day Teas. Our Spring Program “A Day at the Zoo!” will be held on Friday, May 19 at 9:30am in the sanctuary. You are invited to hear the sweet voices of our 3, 4 & 5 year old children! We will end our school year with “Beach Days” and our class picnics will be held at the North Wake Landfill Park.

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is ongoing and if you are interested or know someone who is please call 919-870-5841 or Leigh Anne Barham at 919-818-9585. St. Philip Preschool has warm, nurturing teachers, an age-appropriate curriculum and large classrooms.

Thank you St. Philip for always welcoming us and for all your prayers, love and support!

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



Sign up for Summer Camp!

It’s that time of year already! Summer is coming soon, and we are blessed to have amazing Lutheran summer camps here in North Carolina that offer a variety of fantastic half week or full week summer camp experiences that will shape the faith lives of your children.

Check out all the different options at these camps by visiting their websites today. If you are interested in attending and need a scholarship, contact [Kai](mailto:kai@st-philip.org) for more information.

FREE Agapé Day Camp Day

June 10 (current Grades K-5)

You don’t want to miss this FREE fun and faith filled day at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh (only 10 minutes away from St. Philip). You’ll have a chance to enjoy some fun and silly songs, see some funny skits, do some fun crafts, play a lot of great games, enjoy some guided nature activities, and have some Bible discovery time!

The counselors from Camp Agapé are known nationally for being some of the best summer camp staff around and you’ll have a chance to experience their great love and contagious enthusiasm they have as they share their faith with you!

Camp begins at 9:00am and ends at 3:00pm.

All campers are asked to bring a packed lunch; snacks and drinks will be provided.

Registration closes June 1st.

[You can register online HERE](#)

Contact Kai for more information.

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!

May 7th meet at 3:30 pm for some bowling fun. Contact [Kai](#) for more information.

Summer: Agapé Day Camp – July 10-14 (current Grades K-5)

This summer, St. Philip is partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh for our Agapé' Day Camp week July 10-14. All current Kindergarten-5th grade youth are eligible to attend. Day Camp days run from 9am-3pm, except for Friday which ends at 12pm. You send a packed lunch for your child each day, and we provide the snacks. During the week we'll have lots of great games, songs, activities, work on a service project, get wet on water day, and lots more!

Cost is \$70 per participant for the week. If you are interested in attending or want more information, please contact Kai—kai@st-philip.org, who will help you through the registration process.

Children & Youth Family Year End Picnic

On May 21st @ 4:00 pm in the parking lot, we'll get together for some fun and fellowship as we end this program year and head into summer!



Graduate Sunday

On Sunday, June 4 at both worship services, we will be celebrating our graduates.

If you are a graduate or have one in your family, we would love to recognize this important moment in your lives. Please send your name, school you are graduating from, and what you plan to do next to Kai at kai@st-philip.org by Tuesday, May 30.

Young Worship Tool Kits

Check out our NEW Young Worship Tool Kits! These 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. Grab one of the bright green bags outside the worship space as you enter and return it at the end of the worship service.



Faith Kits

Introducing “Faith Kits”

What are Faith Kits and
Why are we using Faith Kits?

As you know, we moved away from Sunday School as the main way that we encourage Faith Formation for our young people and their families here at St. Philip a while ago. We are excited to introduce Faith Kits as one of the new methods of encouraging and equipping our children, youth, and families to engage in the lifelong process of faith formation from the comfort of their own homes and with the flexibility to engage in intentional faith formation around busy schedules.

Who can get a Faith Kit?

As we are starting off this ongoing project, we are starting with making these Faith Kits available to all of our families with children/youth from age-2 to 12th-grade. Faith Kits are available for pick up at the church office.

Thank You For Trying Something New With Us!

Study after study has shown that if faith is not practiced and reinforced in the home, that the lessons of our faith are not retained into adulthood. We are looking forward to this new approach to faith formation and are excited to strengthen the relationship between the church and the home for the sake of faith formation in our children and youth! We know that this makes a bit more work for you at home, but our hope is to reduce that amount of work for you so that you can engage in meaningful faith conversations with your children and youth at home, in the car, or on the sidelines of a sporting event.

Our First Faith Kit: Building Faith

This particular Faith Kit provides materials and simple activities for children/youth/families to engage in faith formation using LEGO bricks, so it's called “Building Faith.” This Faith Kit has 8 week's worth of material in them that families can engage with at any time. At the conclusion of this 8 week journey, we will have a new faith kit available for another set of 4-8 weeks in length! Our hope is to equip our families to grow in their faith year-round with one faith kit after another!



Stephanie & Don Seeber



Katie Snyder



Krysta Billock

Outreach Update

St. Philip is committed to addressing the needs of our community. The two greatest and growing needs in North Raleigh and Wake County right now are 1) Growing Food Insecurity, and 2) Growing Home Insecurity. As a faith family striving to share the love of Christ, we have partnered with three local non-profits who are doing amazing front-line work helping to address these growing needs in our community.

St. Philip Supporting Families Together

Last year, St. Philip led efforts helped to raise \$60,000 for Families Together, effectively helping to move 6 families into sustainable housing. That's a huge impact! This year, we are seeking to raise the bar and help raise \$100,000 for Families Together.

Right now, St. Philip is going to match up to \$10,000 in gifts that are given to Families Together.

As we seek to be a faith community that shares the love of Christ, we are excited to partner with Families Together as we fight homelessness in our community. Together we can help ensure that we help every family have a home.

You can give in different ways.

- ◇ You can give by check or online through the church. Please indicate Families Together on the memo. St. Philip Lutheran Church Website: st-philip.org
- ◇ You can give directly to Families Together on their website. When you do, please list that you are connected to St. Philip in the comments so that we can make sure to match whatever is given this way. Families Together Website: famielstogethernc.org

We'll soon have more additional information about how St. Philip is supporting Brown Bag Ministries and North Raleigh Ministries as well!

Let's do what we can to share the love of Christ!

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 raleighbells@gmail.com
- ◆ Sign up here: [Brown Bag Ministry](#)

Brown Bag Ministry
Let hope fly

Lutheran World Relief Quilting Group

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

Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After a really good start to our year in the first two months, March came in much slower.

For the month, total income was \$34,681, or \$13,934 under plan, while expenses were \$41,705, or \$3,433 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$136,238, or \$7,257 under plan, while expenses were \$134,282, or 13,236 under plan. Income has exceeded expenses by just \$1,956, and expenses do not include budgeted reserves which are accounted for at year-end.

Hopefully, the March results represent just a temporary fall-off in giving. Our congregation has been so generous, particularly in the last few years, and we will finish the year in a strong and spirit-lead way.

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;"> March, 2023 Financial Summary </div>		
	Actual	Plan	%			
March 2023	\$ 34,681	\$ 48,615	71%			
Year to Date	\$136,238	\$143,494	95%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$33,041	\$ 44,875	74%	\$136,033	\$ 132,273	103%
Other Income	\$ 1,640	\$ 3,740	44%	\$ 205	\$ 11,221	2%
Total Income	\$34,681	\$ 48,615	71%	\$136,238	\$143,494	95%
Expenses	\$ 41,705	\$ 45,138	92%	\$ 134,282	\$147,518	91%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (7,024)	\$ 3,477		\$ 1,956	\$ (4,024)	

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 pm Staff	2 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30 pm Personnel 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	3 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study	4 6:30 pm NA 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch	5 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	6 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
7 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration	8 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	9 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Preschool Board	10 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study	11 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	12 10:00 am Al-Anon 6:45 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	13 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
14 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells	15 1:00pm Columbarium Meeting	16 9:30 am iHop Breakfast Group 5:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	17	18 10:00 am Puzzle Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	19 10:00 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm AA	20 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
21 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Family Year End Picnic 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Congregation Council	22 1:00 pm Staff	23 10:00 am Book Club 6:30 pm Fellowship Dinner Group 6:30 pm Men's Pub Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	24 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	25 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	26 10:30 am AlAnon 7:00 pm AA	27 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir practice 10:00 am Brown Bag
28 10:00 am One United Worship Service 3:00 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells	29 Office Closed	30 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	31 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study			



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

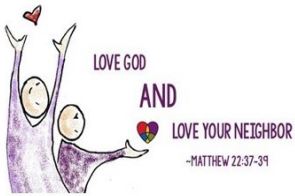
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Church, Raleigh



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WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST!

St. Philip Lutheran Church

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