



# The Epistle

August, 2023 St. Philip Lutheran Church

## Pastor's Message

"An explosion of generosity! That's what we've undergone here at St. Philip over the past year. Kai Thurow has been with us almost a year now (happy anniversary, Kai!), and since he's arrived, we've focused our efforts almost exclusively on three primary areas of outreach: North Raleigh Ministries (NRM), Families Together (FT), and Brown Bag Ministry/Refugee Hope Partners (RHP). Last fall, we thought we might raise around \$1,500 to help feed hungry people with NRM, but instead we raised over \$6,000. After two consecutive years of raising \$30,000 and \$60,000 respectively to house homeless families with FT, we raised \$130,000 this spring. We are currently purchasing school supplies for students in need, and we encourage you to participate as enthusiastically as you have been with our other endeavors.

Moreover, our "Tidy Team" which cleans and prepares FT apartments to temporarily house homeless families has increased from four to nine members. We recently had nine members to go volunteer at a Reading Day Program for RHP, assisting young immigrant children in reading English, which resulted in the first time that they have ever had a one-on-one ratio for each child (meaning one child paired with one adult). Please see Kai if you'd like to join/participate in either the Tidy Team or the RHP Reading Day Program.

Finally, I made an announcement regarding a recent request for travel assistance (for medical appointments) from a person in need whom we do not know. In my previous 26 years of ordained ministry, all such requests went unheeded.

This time, three of you volunteered to help this person, who is unable to reimburse for gas. I am overwhelmed by your discipleship, outreach, service, and generosity, St. Philip! It is an honor to be on this faith journey with people who are yielding "30-fold, 60-fold, and 100-fold" out of your "good soil."

I would also like to uplift Stephen Ministry going into this fall. Stephen Ministry gets its name from Stephen, one of the first seven deacons (Acts 6) and the first Christian martyr (Acts 7). The first seven deacons were appointed to assist the original 12 disciples in ministry and to help lighten the load on them. Similarly, Stephen Ministers assist the pastor with pastoral care in the congregation, particularly with those who would appreciate someone walking with and alongside them longer-term. Our Stephen Ministry Leader at this time is Kathy Blum. We hope to be able to install Dan Heyl as another Leader in the fall. Our Stephen Ministers are the two of them plus Shelley Bower, Laura Carlson, Kathy Cunningham, Lois Knauff, and Kenny Beck. They have all had copious training and are willing to accompany any who are undergoing life transitions, whether they be major or minor. Such issues include the loss of a loved one, retirement, having a baby, becoming an "empty nester," moving, beginning a new job, etc. Their work is completely confidential and is meant to be short-term, relatively speaking. They do not provide professional counseling, obviously, but are called to walk alongside you for a period of time, accompanying you through a transition period where you could use a listening, compassionate ear (and presence). If you feel as though you could use a Stephen Minister,

*Continued...*

please reach out to Kathy Blum or me. The last thing we want is for you to walk a difficult path alone. If you think God is perhaps calling you to become a Stephen Minister, we would love to explore that gift and opportunity further with you. Please, again, simply reach out to Kathy Blum or me. We would be delighted to further explore that option with you.

Please prayerfully consider these opportunities. "Bear one another's burdens," Scripture encourages, "and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6: 2).

Yours in "Sharing the Love of Christ,"  
Pastor Tim

## Ministry Highlight:

### Men's Pub Ministry

The St. Philip Men's Pub Ministry meets monthly for Fellowship and various service projects that the group decides on.

Recently, the Men's Pub Ministry group led an effort that provided almost \$7,000 and several carloads of food to benefit North Raleigh Ministries Food Bank.

So far this year, the group has secured a second Defibrillator for the church and is sponsoring some training classes for this and CPR that will be held in the Fall.

Contact Dave Wahlstrom for more information at [dave00256@gmail.com](mailto:dave00256@gmail.com)



## Help Update

### St. Philip's 60<sup>th</sup> year Picture Directory!

We plan on publishing the new St. Philip Directory in time for the First Sunday of Advent.

#### *It isn't too late to submit your pictures!*

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](mailto:admin@st-philip.org)

*Celebrating*  
**60** of FAITH &  
FELLOWSHIP  
YEARS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE! [www.St-Philip.org](http://www.St-Philip.org)







### Executive Director Update:

As of July 1, 2023, Jennifer Paul has become our new Executive Director at Families Together.

Jennifer emerged as the ideal candidate for the role during a 4-month leadership transition period. She has over 25 years in non-profit management and development experience having worked with organizations ranging from startups to major national non-profits in Washington, DC. She spent the most recent 12 years with organizations focused on ending homelessness, including 8 years as the Families Together Development Director. In this role, she has had a significant impact, helping Families Together triple in size to enable greater service to the community by launching initiatives in the areas of affordable housing and advocacy to augment our direct services.

### Volunteer Needs:

We are also working to restock items in our pantry. We are so grateful for the amount of cleaning supplies and paper products we received from supporters. We are now looking for items such as:

- ♥ Twin size bedding
- ♥ Men's and women's shampoo and conditioner
- ♥ Men's and women's body wash
- ♥ Feminine hygiene products
- ♥ Shower curtains
- ♥ Lotion

If you or your group are interested in donating, volunteering or hosting a donation drive, please contact our Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at [sara@famielstogethernc.org](mailto:sara@famielstogethernc.org). Thank you!



**Brown Bag Ministry**  
Let hope fly

**NORTH  
RALEIGH  
MINISTRIES**

## **Augsburg Sunday School Class**

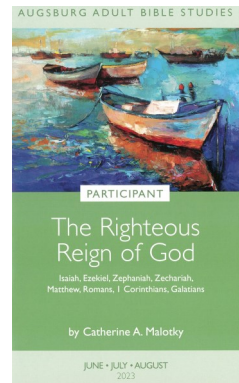
Sunday mornings, at 10:00 in the Music Room.

The class will use the Bible study guide, *The Righteous Reign of God*

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.

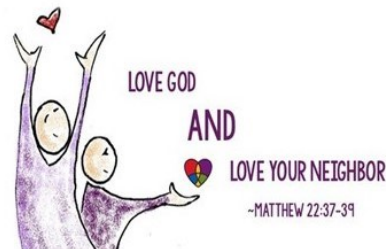
All are welcome!



## **Lutheran World Relief Quilting**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday mornings of the month at 10:00 am.

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



**WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST!**

# Faith & Fellowship

## Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday 8/15 at 9:30 am

We will meet at Falls River Café

10630 Durant Rd. (use the Bojangles driveway to their parking).

Spread the word and invite a friend for this casual time of fellowship and conversation!

Contact Frank Bouknight for more information. [bouknightf@yahoo.com](mailto:bouknightf@yahoo.com) or 919-302-1812

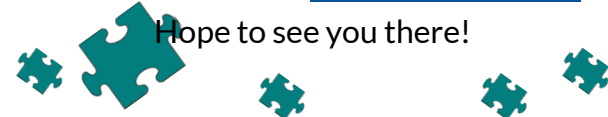
## Puzzle Get Together

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, on August 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:claire6078@att.net)

Hope to see you there!



Our next dinner  
6:30 pm on August 22<sup>nd</sup>

We will meet at Ni Asian Kitchen, in Six Forks Station contact Carol Rogers [parakayaker@gmail.com](mailto:parakayaker@gmail.com)

Everyone is invited!!



12:00 pm on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at

Outback on Capital Blvd., Raleigh

Please contact Claire Muller to RSVP for the reservation.

919-752-6541 or

[clairegm855@gmail.com](mailto:clairegm855@gmail.com)

Every 1st Thursday!

Hope to see you there!

## Pub Ministry

Pub Ministry will meet on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Condesa 77 Mexican Grill And Bar located at 1540 Dunn Rd.

Contact Dave Wahlstrom at

[dave00256@gmail.com](mailto:dave00256@gmail.com) for more information.

Everyone is welcome to join in!

## Adult Book Club

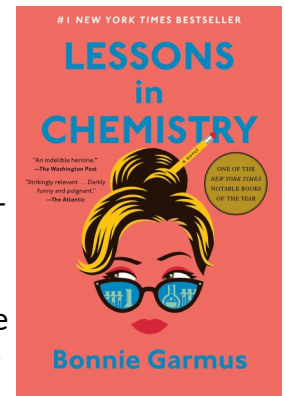
Everyone is welcome!

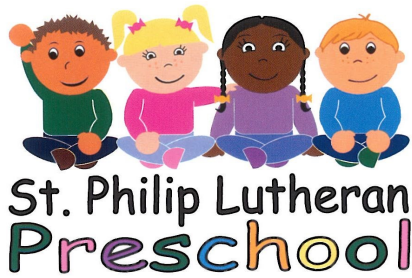
Our next meeting will be on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 in the Parlor.

We will be discussing *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

Meet Elizabeth Zott: “a gifted research chemist, absurdly self-assured and immune to social convention” (The Washington Post) in 1960s California whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cooking show.

We hope to see you there!





St. Philip Lutheran Preschool begins its 41st year in September! Our goal is to present a program of art, music and creative play that encourages the growth and development of each child in a Christian environment that is loving and nurturing. We believe each child is unique and special, so the curriculum is based on the premise that children learn in a variety of ways, at different speeds and with different experiential backgrounds provided by their parents. Our teachers strive to make their classrooms interesting, inviting and age appropriate. We serve preschoolers ages 2-5 with a cut-off date of October 16th from September through May in a half-day program.

The staff is excited and looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year which starts on September 5, 2023. If you have a little one, friend or family that may be looking for a preschool this fall, we do have openings in some of the classes.

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

As always, we thank you for opening your doors and hearts to us!



## Faith Kits

Current Faith Kits": 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!

Faith Kits are designed for families with children and youth to engage in faith conversations at home. Each Faith Kit has all the supplies and instructions needed for a quick 5-10 exploration of a faith concept. Each kit runs for 4-8 weeks, and we'll get you a new one when the current one is done.

***Pick yours up today in the office hallway!***



**Save the Date! September 10, 2023**

**God's work.  
Our hands.**

You are invited to join us for one worship service at 10am followed by a congregational lunch and service projects on September 10th.

Keep an eye out for more information as we get closer to the date! If you have questions, please contact [Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org)

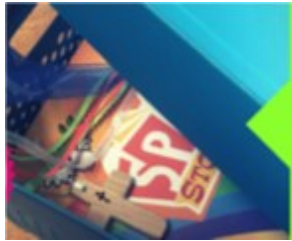
# Messages from Kai

## 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

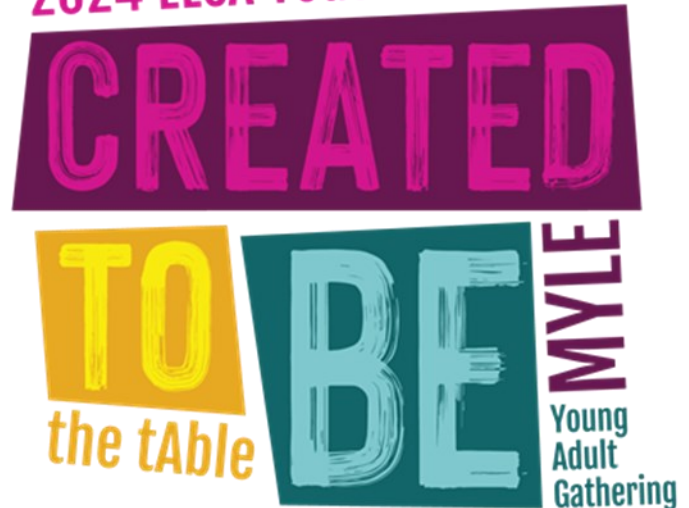
In the Celebrate Summer Faith Kit you will find a deck of cards that is full of activities, rituals, reflections, and other ideas your family can try during the summer wherever your family finds itself. Each card in the deck is color coded to show the type of activity.

- RED = For a specific day**
- ORANGE = For at-home fun**
- YELLOW = During travels**
- GREEN = Rituals to try**
- BLUE = Acts of service**

As you explore options to engage in your faith as a family this summer, we would love to see and hear what you are doing together! Feel free to send us photos and share some stories with us!

You can pick up your Faith Kit in the office hallway on Sundays or contact [Kai](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org) for more information.

## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



Preparations are underway for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering held in New Orleans, LA July 16-20, 2024. All students who will be starting grades 9-12 will be eligible to attend.

The theme will be centered on how God has created us to be brave, authentic, free, disruptive, and disciples. This trip which happens every three years is a truly transformational trip that you won't want to miss.

**Our first informational meeting** is scheduled to be held on Sunday, August 6 at 10:30am between services OR on Wednesday, August 9 at 7:00pm over Zoom.

For more information, please contact [Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org)





# Outreach Updates

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

## Outreach Opportunity – Children/Youth Meals

We are currently looking for some volunteers to help provide a \*simple\* dinner for our children/youth and their parents once a month.

Meal examples could include: Tacos // Hot Dogs // Spaghetti // Grilled Cheese Sandwiches // Chicken Nuggets & Mac-n-Cheese // Lasagna // Sandwiches // Pizza // etc.

We're asking for volunteers to help with set-up/providing a simple meal/clean-up.

Dinners will begin at 5pm and end by 5:30pm. Please note that you can partner with someone else if you would like - don't feel like you have to do it all on your own.

Here's a Sign-Up Genius link if you are interested in helping out! ([Click Here](#)) or email Kai— [Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org)

## Outreach Celebration – Families Together Tidy Team

The St. Philip Tidy Team that helps to clean apartments for Families Together clients is on an as needed basis. A growing group of dedicated volunteers helped clean two apartments this summer. It's a rewarding and fun time.

We're always looking for more volunteers who might be willing to donate some time to help clean an apartment when needed. If you are interested in joining the Tidy Team and helping to clean apartments as available, please contact [Kai Thurow](#) or [Kathy Blum](#) for more information!

## Outreach Celebration—Reading Day at Cedar Point

On July 11, members of our faith community had the privilege of experiencing some heartwarming encounters that touched the lives of all involved. A group of nine volunteers from St. Philip met at Cedar Point Community Center to read with the wonderful refugee children residing there. The afternoon was full of smiles, laughs, and a lot of great stories, conversations, and even play. The impact of this simple act of kindness and sharing the love of Christ was nothing short of extraordinary for all involved.

Refugee Hope Partners (RHP) continues to host this Reading Club Program for the rest of August and will begin their Homework Help Program once the school year begins in September. The Homework Help Program happens Monday-Thursday + 4-6pm Elementary School + 2:30-4pm Middle School + 6:30-8:30pm High School & College. You can sign up for any shifts you want to and for however long you are able. If you are interested in more information about either the Reading Club Program or the Homework Help Program, please contact [Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org)



# Outreach Opportunity – BIG School Supply Drive

(Ends August 11)

We are currently doing a BIG School Supply Drive to support our three outreach ministry partners (Brown Bag Ministries, North Raleigh Ministries, and Families Together) and the communities and people they minister to. Below you can find our current list of school supplies we are hoping to collect this year for children in our community who are in need.



## Current Supplies Needed:

- ★ (Backpacks (large & small)
- ★ \*\* 3 Subject College Ruled Notebooks
- ★ \*\* 12 Pack of Colored Pencils
- ★ \*\* Black & White Composition Notebooks
- ★ #2 Pencils
- ★ Blue and Black Pens
- ★ Markers
- ★ \*\* School Glue (8oz)
- ★ Glue Sticks
- ★ \*\* Kid's Scissors
- ★ Erasers
- ★ \*\* Kleenex/Tissues (travel packs)
- ★ \*\* Chapstick
- ★ Varying sizes of Ziploc bags
- ★ Highlighters
- ★ Dry Erase Markers
- ★ \*\* 1" and 2" 3-Ring Binders
- ★ Pencil Sharpeners
- ★ Pocket Folders
- ★ Pencil Bags
- ★ Rulers
- ★ \*\* Compasses/Protractors
- ★ \*\* Pocket Dictionary

\*\* = Items we need the most of.

Please note that we still need all items.

You can drop off any supplies or have them shipped to the church between now and August 11. Thank you for supporting the kids in our community who may not otherwise get needed school supplies!

## Christ Caring for People through People

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis.

### What do Stephen Ministers do?

They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And during this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.



If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time—large or small—and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to Pastor Tim or a Stephen Ministry Leader.

***Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!***

**Stephen Leader:**

[Kathy Blum](#)



# Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God's blessings and your generosity resulted in strong financial results in June. Income was up substantially and we were well below our expense budget, although timing played a roll in our expense numbers as it often does.

For the month, total income was \$62,532 or \$14,167 over plan, and expenses were \$40,687, or \$9,940 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$292,638, or \$3,951 over plan, and expenses were \$267,373, or \$25,398 under plan. Income has exceeded expenses by \$25,265, although expenses do not include budgeted reserves which are accounted for at year-end.

At the midway point of the year, we are slightly ahead of our plan on giving and better than plan on expenses. Please continue to give your much-appreciated support to the ministries of 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				<b>June, 2023 Financial Summary</b>		
	Actual	Plan	%			
June 2023	\$ 62,532	\$ 48,365	129%			
Year to Date	\$292,638	\$288,687	101%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
<b>Income</b>						
General Fund	\$60,565	\$ 42,500	143%	\$280,251	\$ 255,000	110%
Other Income	\$ 1,967	\$ 5,865	34%	\$ 12,387	\$ 33,687	37%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$62,532</b>	<b>\$ 48,365</b>	<b>129%</b>	<b>\$292,638</b>	<b>\$288,687</b>	<b>101%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
	\$ 40,687	\$ 50,627	80%	\$ 267,373	\$292,771	91%
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 21,845</b>	<b>\$ (2,262)</b>		<b>\$ 25,265</b>	<b>\$ (4,084)</b>	

The 2023 Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$577,374



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	2 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry	3 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm NA	4	5 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
6 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 10:30 am ELCA Youth Gathering Interest Meeting 11:00 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm ELCA Youth Gathering Interest Meeting 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration	7 1:00 pm Staff	8 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Preschool Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	9 7:00 pm ELCA Youth Gathering Interest Meeting	10 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Stewardship 6:30 pm NA	11 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	12 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
13 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 6:30 pm Congregation Council	14 1:00 pm Staff 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	15 9:30 am Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	16	17 10:00 am Puzzle Group 6:30 pm NA	18 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	19 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
20 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration	21	22 10:00 am Book Club 6:30 pm Fellowship Dinner Group 6:30 pm Pub Ministry	23	24 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA	25 10:30 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	26 10:00 am Brown Bag 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir practice 7:00 pm AA
27 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration	28 11:30 am Staff	29 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	30	31 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA		



Rev. Tim Poston  
Senior Pastor  
[Pastor@st-philip.org](mailto:Pastor@st-philip.org)

Bob Petters  
Choir Director  
[stphilipchurchchoir@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipchurchchoir@gmail.com)

Kai Thurow  
Outreach & Youth Ministries  
Coordinator  
[Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:Kai@st-philip.org)

Jane Gue  
Office Administrator  
[admin@st-philip.org](mailto:admin@st-philip.org)

Regan Wang  
Organist/Pianist  
[chuhrare@gmail.com](mailto:chuhrare@gmail.com)

919-846-2992  
[www.St-Philip.org](http://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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St. Philip Lutheran  
Church, Raleigh



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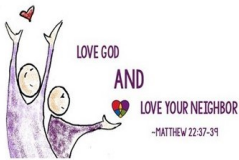
[Instagram](#)  
[stplcraleigh](#)



## St. Philip Lutheran Church

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

[www.St-Philip.org](http://www.St-Philip.org)



WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST!



**“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday**



September 10, 2023