



The Epistle

January, 2024

St. Philip Lutheran Church

Pastor's Message

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die," Ecclesiastes 3 famously begins. This has been a difficult season for us at St. Philip over the past month. We have lost three cherished members of our family suddenly and unexpectedly: Mark Tarquinio, Lee West, and Claire Muller. Not only were they wonderful people, but they volunteered a good measure of their time, energy, and finances to our ministry. They were faithful saints of God. Please keep their families in your prayers – especially Carol Woodyard (Mark's wife), Diana West (Lee's wife), and Julie Keely (Claire's daughter).

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope," 1 Thessalonians 4 reads. As people, we certainly grieve the loss of loved ones. Our grief is often in exact proportion to our love for the deceased. However, as Christians, we have a sure and certain hope, and that is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Christ was resurrected from the grave, we too shall one day be resurrected with a new body. Until that day we take comfort that to be "away from the body" is to be "at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5: 8). We grieve the loss of Mark, Lee, and Claire, and we shed many tears for them, but God keeps a "record" of our "tossing's," and keeps our "tears in his bottle" (Psalm 56: 8). In other words, God is deeply aware of our pain and sadness. We can lean on God during this time, and we can lean on each other. We are called to walk alongside one another in our joys and in our sufferings.

I once read an author who wrote, "We Christians, of all people, ought to be the least afraid of death." His reasoning? "We have already died."

What did he mean? He was referring to baptism. St. Paul writes in Romans 6, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his DEATH? Therefore we have been BURIED with him by baptism into DEATH" (emphasis mine). We must never forget that. We cannot skip too quickly, as we are wont to do, to the power and joy of the resurrection. The resurrection is our ultimate hope and joy, but it does not take away the sting of death. At least not in this lifetime.

Allow these last two scriptures to give you profound hope and consolation as together we face the loss of our loved ones. "We will not all die, but we will all be changed," the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed... Then the saying that is written will come to pass: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'" The beloved disciple, John, refers to that same day in Revelation 21 by remarking, "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the former things have passed away." These are not cliches and platitudes. These are the words of God. And they are our hope, our reassurance, and our promise.

Happy New Year, my friends. It is an honor to embark once again with you on a year that is bound to have its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows. We have each other. And we have Jesus. And that is sufficient.

In Christ's name,
Pastor Tim

Christmas Interactive Theater & Dinner

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! Your energy and enthusiasm helped make the evening fun. A special thank you to the dinner crew led by Deb Coccarelli and Lois Knauff for leading us in the music.



PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

We had wonderful entertainment and fun at the December lunch!

Thank you to the Preschool children for making it special!



A special thank you to Debbie Coccarelli for a yummy lunch—not only for this Christmas lunch—but all year long! We're grateful to everyone who works to make our monthly lunches a success!



The **BASICS** of

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
DEUTERONOMY
JOSHUA
JUDGE
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRON
2 CHRON
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
JOB
PSALM
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
EZEKIEL
DANIEL
JOEL
OSAYAH
MICAH

NAHUM
HABAK
KUK
ZEPHAN
IAH
HAGGAI
ZECHA
RIAH
MALA
CHI

MATTHEW
MARK
LUK
JOHN

ACTS
ROMANS
1 CORIN
2 CORIN
RIN
THIANS
TIMOTHY

1 THESS
SALO
NIANS
2 THESS
SA
LO
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
PHI
LE
MON

HE
BREW
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE
REVE
LATION

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays in the Music Room or by Zoom

The topic this year is “The Basics of the Christian Faith.” How much do we really know and understand about our faith?

We are going to delve deeply into God’s Word as we study together a variety of topics. We meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 am & 6:45 pm.

Everyone is welcome to join, we hope to see you there!

Zoom in the Morning: [Click Here](#)

Zoom in the Evening: [Click Here](#)

Holiday Smiles Program – Thank you!



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

We also gave each of the eighteen (18) staff at Families Together a special gift as a thank you for everything they did!

We want to thank you for your generosity and look forward to next year’s Holiday Smiles Program!



Kids in worship

Every Sunday, in both worship services, Kai calls the children together to hear the day’s message in interactive and exciting ways!



Kingdom Kids (grades K-5)

Kingdom Kids is our Children's Ministry at St. Philip for all children in grades K-5.

This group meets once a month for an hour of fun as we play games, Bible study, music, craft, and do some service projects!

Following our get-together, we have a family dinner for all youth & their family members to participate in. For more information, please email kai@st-philip.org

Kingdom Kids (K-5) Spring 2024 Schedule

Jan. 28 – Kingdom Kids (K-5)	4-5pm
Family Dinner (K-12 + families)	5-5:30pm
Feb. 18 - Kingdom Kids (K-5)	4-5pm
Family Dinner (K-12 + families)	5-5:30pm



Youth Group (grades 6-12)



Our Youth Group for grades 6-12 meets twice a month.

One Sunday we meet at 6pm and the other we meet from 5:30-6:30pm following a family meal for all youth & their families to participate in.

Additionally, Discipleship Academy (our Confirmation program) meets about once a month for a seminar course. Discipleship Academy is available for anyone grade 6+. For more information, contact kai@st-philip.org

Youth Group (6-12) Spring 2024 Schedule

Jan. 7 – Youth Group (6-12)	6-7:30pm
Jan. 14 – MLK Weekend	No Programming
Jan. 21 – Discipleship Academy: Baptism Seminar Course	1pm
Jan. 28 – Family Dinner (K-12 + families)	5-5:30pm
Youth Group (6-12)	5:30-6:30pm
Feb. 4 - Youth Group (6-12)	6-7:30pm
Feb. 11 – Discipleship Academy: Wholeness & A Christian Life	1pm
Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday Worship	7pm
Feb. 18 – Family Dinner (K-12 + families)	5-5:30pm
Youth Group (6-12)	5:30-6:30pm
Feb. 23-25 – NC LYO Assembly (6-12)	Register ahead of time

LYO Assembly Feb. 23-25 (grades 6-12)

Registration for our annual trip to the NC Synod Statewide LYO Assembly in Greensboro, NC is open! Registration closes on January 28. Contact [Kai@st-philip.org](mailto:kai@st-philip.org) for more information.



Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday 1/16 at 9:30 am

We will meet at Falls River Café

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

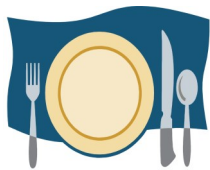
Spread the word and invite a friend for this casual time of fellowship and conversation!

Contact Frank Bouknight for more information. bouknightf@yahoo.com or 919-302-1812

Pub Ministry

Pub Ministry will meet on Tuesday, 1/23 at 6:30 pm at Mamacita Mexican Restaurant 1540 Dunn Road

Contact Dave Wahlstrom at dave00256@gmail.com to learn more.



FELLOWSHIP
Supper Group

Watch the announcements for our next dinner.

Questions? contact Carol Rogers parakayaker@gmail.com

Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

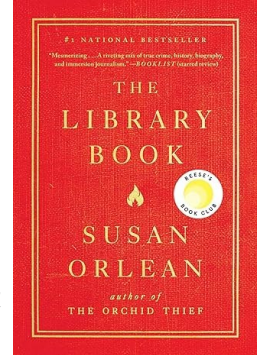
Our next meeting will on January 23rd at 10:00 in the Parlor.

We will be discussing *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean.

On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. As the moments passed, the patrons and staff who had been cleared out of the building realized this was not the usual fire alarm. As one fireman recounted, "Once that first stack got going, it was 'Goodbye, Charlie.'"

The fire was disastrous: it reached 2000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours.

We hope to see you there! Contact Kathryn Edwards for more info. itsmekge@gmail.com



SAINTS & SINNERS

On the second Tuesday of the month we get together for a shared lunch, good conversation and a program. This month's speaker is from Dementia Alliance of NC.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

January 9th at 11:00 am in Luther Hall.

Please RSVP to Carole Mason in order to plan. 919-210-0727.

The Bells of St. Philip needs You!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to ring bells? Well an opportunity is here for you! We need new ringers to pick up bell notes that there aren't enough people to play them. You'll learn how to ring and will be able to play during worship. No previous experience necessary, just come ready to have some fun & the desire to try something new to praise God with!

Practice is at 5:00 Sunday afternoons—join us!

Questions? Contact Regan Chuhran @ chuhrare@gmail.com





St. Philip Lutheran Preschool

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 15th.

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 2024-2025 school year begins January 3rd for preschool families and church members. It will open to the public on January 22nd. 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!!



During this Christmas season, I would like to invite everyone to share in expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated staff of St. Philip by contributing to this year's Staff Christmas Gift.

You can either place your gift in the offering plate or send it in on-line, but please be sure to do so no later than January 15 and to mark it Staff Christmas Gift.

Blessings,
Paul Augustowski, Council President

Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we reach the end of 2023, it is pleasing to reflect upon the strong financial year we've enjoyed so far. Our income is ahead of plan year-to-date, and November was above plan after a strong October. If December comes in at or ahead of plan, it will have been a very positive year for St. Philip and our ministries.

For the month, total income was \$49,244, or \$1,805 over plan, and expenses were \$46,175, or \$1,787 over plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$544,761, or \$16,003 over plan, and expenses were \$493,534, or \$32,327 under plan. Income has exceeded expenses by \$51,226, although expenses do not include budgeted reserves which are accounted for at year-end.

We look forward to reporting on our full year results next month. Thank you for your continued generosity in support of our ministries at St. Philip.

Blessings,
Jim Beck
Finance Chair

A New Look—

Our online financial partner, Vanco, has updated and improved their website where you go to give to St. Philip from the church's website. We think you'll find it much more user friendly. If you have questions or difficulties with the site, please contact the church office.



Giving				November, 2023 Financial Summary		
	Actual	Plan	%			
November 2023	\$ 49,244	\$ 47,439	104%			
Year to Date	\$544,761	\$528,758	103%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$45,608	\$ 42,500	107%	\$510,896	\$ 467,500	109%
Other Income	\$ 3,636	\$ 4,939	74%	\$ 33,865	\$ 61,258	55%
Total Income	\$ 49,244	\$ 47,439	104%	\$544,761	\$528,758	103%
Expenses						
	\$ 46,175	\$ 44,388	104%	\$ 493,534	\$525,861	94%
Net Gain/(Loss)						
	\$ 3,069	\$ 3,051		\$ 51,226	\$ 2,897	

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



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	3 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry	4 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	5 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	6 1:00 pm Lee West Service 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 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Youth Group	8 1:30 pm Staff 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Property Team	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 6:30 pm NA 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study	11 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	12 10:00 am Al Anon 5:00 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 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Congregation Council	15 Office closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 9:30 am Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	17 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm NA 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study	18 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	19 10:30 am Al Anon 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	20 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir practice 7:00 pm AA
21 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Congregation Meeting 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:00 pm Discipleship Academy 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 5:00 pm Handbells	22 1:30 pm Staff 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Worship & Music	23 10:00 am Book Club 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Fellowship Group 6:30 pm Pub Ministry	24 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm NA 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study	25 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise	26 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	27 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
28 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Annual Meeting 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 4:00 pm Kingdom Kids 5:00 pm Family Dinner 5:00 pm Handbells 5:30 pm Youth Group	29 1:30 pm Staff 2:00 pm Columbarium Meeting	30 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	31 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 pm NA 6:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study			



Sunday Morning Worship

9:00 am – Crossing Contemporary

11:00 am – Traditional style

In Person, Zoom & Facebook

Annual Congregation Meeting

On Sunday, January 28, 2024 in the main Sanctuary at 10:00 am (following the first service).

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

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

Regan Wang
Director of Worship & Music
Ministries
chuhrare@gmail.com

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

Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@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

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Prayer to Renew Our Commitment ([from the NC Synod website](#))

Holy and Liberating God,

I give thanks for Your steadfast love and mercy, reforming and renewing me every morning.

I confess that I sleep when I should be woke;

I stay silent when I should speak;

I feast when I should fast.

Break the bonds of sin, of bigotry, racism and hatred and rescue me from evil.

Give me strength to pray with my feet wherever I am and courage to use my privilege and my voice to preach Your disruptive gospel always.

I pray with confidence that You accompany me and make all things—especially hard things—possible.

In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

–The Rev. Christina L. Auch (Ascension, Shelby)

