

The Epistle

August, 2024

St. Philip Lutheran Church

Pastor's Message

9,375 people. Nine thousand three hundred and seventy-five people. That is a staggering number of people.

It is also the approximate number of people St. Philip has "shared the love of Christ" with in a tangible form so far this year.

Our Outreach ministries here have focused primarily on three specific partnerships: Families Together (FT), North Raleigh Ministries (NRM), and Refugee Hope Partners (RHP).

We offer several opportunities throughout the year to help assist people struggling with housing, food insecurity, and other needs through these partner organizations. People here at St. Philip have been incredibly generous with your offerings of time, love, and finances. I thought it would be appropriate at this point to share some of the results of your contributions. And then, together we can celebrate all the ways God's Holy Spirit is moving through us to impact and change the lives of our neighbors.

We will soon surpass 5,500 individual items in our Back-to-School Drive for FT and RHP. This is a thousand more than we collected last year. We will have helped roughly 425 children.

The FT Spring Campaign raised a total of over \$556,000, of which St. Philip contributed more than \$54,000 – our amount securing housing for over five families (so, 12 to 26 individuals).

We collected 234 pairs of shoes for local immigrants and refugees through RHP. Brown Bag Ministries (a part of RHP) assembled and delivered over 6,000 meals, and our Diaper Bank distributed almost 3,000 diapers, relieving some of the financial strains of these families.

We donated 380 items to FT's Emergency Pantry, helping 28 families move into apartments and homes.

Our FT "Tidy Team" cleaned four apartments for four families transitioning from homelessness to apartments.

A "Reading Buddy Day" for RHP saw 16 members of St. Philip assist 16 children with English and reading skills.

The Triangle Conference of Lutherans raised over \$138,000 for a new swimming pool for nearby Camp Agape, \$8,000 of which was contributed by us. This pool will be used by over 1,400 kids and adults.

And all that is just so far this year. That is stunning. That is faithful. That is "Sharing the Love of Christ."

9,375 total LIVES. Lives touched by our ministry. The power of God is flowing through our lives. Through your life. Thank you for your discipleship. Thank you for answering the call.

Sharing the Love of Christ,

Pastor Tim

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Sunday September 29th

There will be one united worship service at 10:00 am

Following the service we will have a covered-dish lunch followed by our G WOH service projects

We have learned through the years for growing fellowship within the church family, that one way was eating together and sharing our favorite foods—and serving others, together!

The Fellowship Team will provide the goods to be grilled & condiments—Everything else will be brought by you!



God's work. Our hands.



Join us for a day of service!

In order to plan for the day, please RSVP using this [Link](#) or scan the code.

In addition so indicating how many people will attend, on the link you will also find a list of Food Categories, with some suggestions—you don't have to bring something that is listed—AND you don't need to decide on a specific dish—but please pick a category and enter it in the Comment section. Categories include: Vegetables, Side Crunch & Assorted Yums, Fruit, and of course Dessert!



Message from the ELCA

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”: SHARING GOD’S GRACE AND LOVE

As Lutherans, we know the difference that God’s grace and love in Christ have made in our daily lives. Because of this, we work together to help others experience that same love and acceptance. We live out this vision through worship and service in our congregations and communities, through our individual vocations and through our collective work as church together. “God’s work. Our hands.” offers a special opportunity to be church together and to share Jesus’ love by inviting others to join in a day of service. This call for service unites all the ELCA expressions to focus on serving and accompanying our neighbors.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

Outreach Highlights

Reading Buddy Days with Refugee Children Sign-Up:



August 6 11am-12 noon.

Reading Buddy Day with Refugee Kids Day 2!

Date/Time: August 5 (11am-12pm)

Location: Imago Dei Church

Sign-Up: You can [sign up to help at this link](#) or by following the QR Code. We have 15 available spots!

THANK YOU! Back to School Collection Drive Success!



This July we asked St. Philip to collect school supplies to support the families that our partner organizations (Refugee Hope Partners and Families Together) support.

The ask this year was larger than it was last year, and our congregation really stepped up to meet the challenge!

We can't thank you enough for the way that you give so selflessly to support those in our community who need it.

We're collecting final donations through Sunday, August 4. Keep an eye out for an email in early August with an update on how we did with our Back to School Collection Drive!

Refugee Hope Partners is looking for volunteers to help with their Back to School Sale Days on either 8/12, 8/13, or 8/14. If you're interested [you can sign up at this link](#).

Outreach Opportunities You Can Get Involved In:

Ongoing Opportunities to get Connected:

North Raleigh Ministries – Volunteer at the Food Pantry (**TOP NEED!**)

North Raleigh Ministries – Volunteer at the Thrift Shoppe(s)

Refugee Hope Partners – Brown Bag Ministries on the 2nd & 4th Saturday's each month. Also looking for additional volunteers who might be interested in helping to pick up food for the packing days as needed.

Refugee Hope Partners – Volunteer for the "Homework Help Program"

Families Together – Join our "Tidy Team" which cleans apartments as clients move in and out of transitional housing on an as needed basis.

If you are interested in finding ways to plug-in or in getting additional information about any of our Outreach Opportunities, please contact Kai@st-philip.org



Outreach Opportunity

St. Philip Fall Food Drive for North Raleigh Ministries— starts on August 25th through the month of September.

NORTH
RALEIGH
MINISTRIES

For the past two years our St. Philip Pub Ministry spearheaded Food Drives that benefited the Food Bank at North Raleigh Ministries (NRM), and we're going to do it again! We have had a tremendous response from the congregation that helped keep folks from being hungry in our community.

October is one of the months of the greatest need for food pantries across the country as many food collection drives happen in November and December to coincide with major upcoming holidays. This leaves the month of October as one of the hardest months to keep shelves stocked.

The NRM Food Bank servers around 750 people every month, and they expect that number to continue to grow as food Insecurity in our area continues to rise. Together, we can help make sure that no one goes hungry by bringing in non-perishable food items from the list below or by making a monetary donation to St. Philip with the memo line = NRM Food Drive.

Lutheran World Relief Quilting Group Volunteer to quilt for kids and families in need.

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 & 5th 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



Quilters making their magic thanks to a much appreciated donation from Thrivent funds donated by Karen and Maury Gifford.

This gift provided the resources for batting used to make donation quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

If you have extra sheets, any size, in good condition, please consider donating them to the Quilting group!



A Message from our Troop 342 & 342-G Scouts

The mission of Scouting is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.



While we have some of the finest, most talented, committed and dedicated adult leaders, we do need assistance. Please promote Scouting and specifically our/your Troops so that we can grow in numbers and minister to more youth. If you want more information to bring boys & girls in or perhaps to volunteer yourself, please contact Bill Drew, Troop 342 Scoutmaster at majdrew@gmail.com.

It has been a busy summer! We hope you'll enjoy these photos of the troop in action at Camp Durant!



Troops 342 and 342-G are in formation, in uniform, with their Troop Flags preparing for a fun-filled campfire program. They are singing "The Jellyfish Song" which demonstrates how these Scouts embrace Scout Spirit!



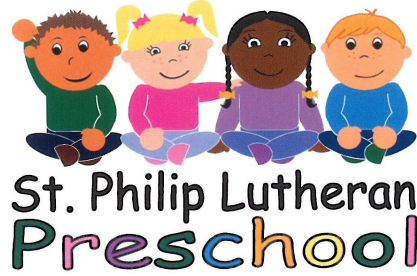
The "Danny DeVito Patrol" is the longest standing patrol within the Troops and usually for senior leaders in Scouting. Pictured are the three senior boys from this patrol at their last summer camp as Scouts.



Order of the Arrow numbers are growing amongst Scouts and Scouters alike. Pictured is an ice-cream social and patch trading sponsored by Camp Durant for OA members only.



Learning how to drive an ATV! Pictured is Dylan Almon going the course!



St. Philip Lutheran Preschool begins its 42nd 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 2024-2025 school year which starts on 9/3/24. 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 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!

SAVE THE DATE: North Raleigh Ministries (NRM) New Crisis & Development Center Grand Opening Oct. 1, 2024



NRM's Crisis & Development Center is moving to a new area where they hope to reach far more people in our community. They are currently open and helping residents in the North Raleigh area, but their grand opening celebration is on October 1st. Everyone in the congregation is invited to see this wonderful new facility and we hope you can make it.

More information will be shared as we get closer to the grand opening.

NRM Call for Help: With the new location/building, they are in need of more volunteers who are able to help with their food pantry! Let us know if you'd like more information!

NORTH
RALEIGH
MINISTRIES

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday 8/20 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

Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on August 27th at 10am in the Parlor.

We will be discussing *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes.

A Love Story for this generation, *Me Before You* brings to life two people who couldn't have less in common—a heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks, What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart?

We hope to see you there!

Contact Kathryn Edwards for more info. itsmekge@gmail.com



Pub Ministry

Pub Ministry will meet on August 27, 6:30 pm at the Driftwood Cantina in Lafayette Village. Contact Dave Wahlstrom at dave00256@gmail.com to learn more.



We will meet on Tuesday—
8/27/24 @ 6:30 pm
Watch the announcements for the restaurant.
Questions?
contact Carol Rogers
parakayaker@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Saints & Sinners are back on
September 10th!

You are invited to a special
luncheon 11:30 in Luther Hall.

To kick off the new year of
programs, lunch will be
compliments of the Fellowship &
Senior Adult Ministry Teams.



12:00 pm on Thursday, August 1st
Salt & Lime Cabo Grill (Falls of Neuse Rd.)
Please contact Debbie Voress
for the reservation.
919- 782-2622
Every 1st Thursday!
Hope to see you there!



A Gathering of Grievors 'Chat & Chew'

A New Ministry—A Gathering of Grievors

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Are you grieving the loss of a dream...as in a divorce? Loss of a pet? Loss and grief don't just come from the loss of a loved one, there are feelings of grief with any "big" change in your life. This can include loss of a job, loss of a friendship, moving to a new area and starting over, or your child "leaving the nest."

Most of us were not taught how to deal with losses. Well meaning people tell us things like "Time heals all wounds" and "You're young, you can re-marry/have another child/find another job." These intellectual suggestions don't help us to heal from our losses. But, a caring Christian Community that offers a chance to learn from and support each other CAN help us heal from our losses.

This is a SAFE PLACE to share your feelings-no judgment- so we can all heal from our grief and losses. This is a time to be with others who understand the weight of grief. I personally have learned so much over the last year since I lost the love of my life, my husband Chuck, to cancer. Everyone experiences their grief differently, so what works for me may not work for you, but sometimes it just helps to have someone who is in the same boat to listen to you and share their story.

The plan is to have a brief introduction followed by a discussion about the vision of this group. How can we support each other? How often do we want to meet? Monthly? The intent is to share our experience, strength and hope with each other, knowing we cannot "fix" this for each other. We can share what helps us most day to day dealing with our losses, such as books, podcasts, activities, and daily practices such as journaling. This group is intended to be an INFORMAL gathering of grievors, this is NOT intended to be individual or group counseling.

Whether your loss is new or old, please mark your calendar now to join us on

- Tuesday, September 17th 2024
- 6-7:30 PM
- St. Philip Lutheran Church
- Bring a meal for yourself if you would like
- NO RSVP necessary, just show up!

If you have any questions or would like to help grow this idea of a Christian Community for grievors in our church, please reach out to Cindy Wolfe (919) 649-3704 or via email CWolfeOTRL@gmail.com

Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have reached the half-way point of our year. Many amazing things have happened at St. Philip as a result of your generosity, such as having our new security system totally paid for. However, we continue to fall behind on general fund giving each month, compared to our 2024 budget.

For the month, total income was \$40,594, or \$12,006 under plan and expenses were 51,147, or \$1,347 over plan. It should be noted that the offering for June 30 was not included in June's numbers (it will be accounted for in July), however, income would still be meaningfully under plan had it been included. In addition, the expense overage attributable the timing of one large payment. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$271,896, or \$44,255 under plan, while expenses were \$294,557, or \$17,493 under plan. Expenses have exceeded income by 22,662.

As the Finance Committee continues to evaluate our financial results, it will develop possible actions to share with Council and the Congregation. We will keep you informed.

We thank God for you and your commitment to St. Philip and its ministries.

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.

				May, 2024 Financial Summary		
Giving	Actual	Plan	%			
May 2024	\$ 37,281	\$ 52,600	71%			
Year to Date	\$231,301	\$ 263,550	88%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$ 33,666	\$ 44,167	76%	\$230,044	\$235,113	98%
Other Income	\$ 3,615	\$ 8,433	43%	\$ 1,257	\$ 28,438	4%
Total Income	\$ 37,281	\$ 52,600	71%	\$231,301	\$263,550	88%
Expenses						
	\$ 54,526	\$ 49,800	109%	\$ 243,410	\$262,250	93%
Net Gain/(Loss)						
	\$ (17,245)	\$ (2,800)		\$ (12,109)	\$ 1,300	

The 2024 Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$632,301

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm NA	2 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	3 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
4 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration	5 1:30 pm Staff	6 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	7 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 6:30 pm Finance	8 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Stewardship 6:30 pm NA	9 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	10 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir practice 7:00 pm AA
11 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	12 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry	13 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	14	15 6:30 pm NA	16 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	17 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
18 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 7:00 pm Y12SR	19 1:30 pm Staff	20 9:30 am Breakfast Group 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	21	22 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA	23 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	24 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
25 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 7:00 pm Y12SR	26	27 10:00 am Book Club 6:30 pm Fellowship Supper Group 6:30 pm Pub Ministry	28	29 6:30 pm Stewardship	30 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	31



Sunday Morning Worship
9:00 am – Crossing Contemporary

11:00 am – Traditional style

In Person, Zoom, Facebook, YouTube

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

Kai Thurow
Outreach & Youth Ministries
Coordinator
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Regan Wang
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919-846-2992
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Jane Gue
Office Administrator
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Summer Office Hours:
Mon & Fri (In person)
9:00 – 4:00
Tues, Wed, & Thurs (Virtual)
9:00 – 4:00

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Church, Raleigh



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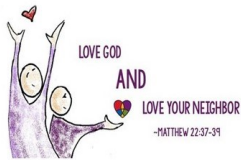
[Instagram](#)
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