



The Epistle

November, 2024

St. Philip Lutheran Church

Pastor's Message

November is the month of Thanksgiving in our nation, and we have so much to be thankful for here at St. Philip.

First, we are thankful for the birth of Regan and Kelun's daughter, Nora, who weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, on Monday, October 28th. We rejoice in her safe and healthy birth, and we pray for the family during Regan's maternity leave through the remainder of this year.

We are thankful for your efforts on "God's Work/Our Hands Sunday" this fall. We had our largest crowd in years for worship, lunch, and the service projects afterwards. We made or assembled 70 personalized cards, 18 college care packages, 100 Blessing Bags, 50 quilts, and delivered food sufficient for 75 families (a total of 225 people) – and a check for over \$5,300 – to North Raleigh Ministries. In total, we positively impacted the lives of over 458 people! A special thank-you goes to Kai Thurow, Barbara Burdette and the Quilters, and Dave Wahlstrom and the Pub Ministry for their sustained leadership which proved vital in these opportunities for service.

We are thankful for those who participated in this year's "Trunk or Treat," which saw around 150 people come through for candy, cider, and costumes. We are thankful to Mary Ellen Wrisley and Linda Shapiro for spearheading the ministry—Cup of Joy. Having coffee and refreshments following each worship service to offer a time of fellowship. And we are thankful for our newest Church Council members, John Keadle, Sherry Sension, and Bruce Trant, who were elected last week.

We are thankful, furthermore, for the opportunity to serve as the collection site for the Triangle Conference of Lutheran churches who are donating

food to the ongoing relief and recovery efforts for western North Carolina, following the flooding and destruction there.

Kai has graciously agreed to head up the entire enterprise for our Conference's 14 congregations. The food donated so far is simply amazing; it has far exceeded our expectations. Again, thanks to Kai for motivating and inspiring our generosity in outreach and service in the two years he has been here.

We are thankful, too, for another faithful and successful Stewardship campaign, whose theme is Moving Forward Together. So far, we have tallied 46 pledges for \$293,000. Even though we have a way to go, that is an auspicious start! Please turn in your EOG (Estimate of Giving) cards if you haven't already done so, either in person or online. A special thank you to the members of the Stewardship Committee.

Personally, I would like to express my appreciation for our superb staff here: Jane Gue, Regan Wang, and Kai Thurow. Our church could never adequately express how grateful we are to have such inspiring and faithful leaders. It is an honor to serve alongside them.

We invite everyone to our annual North Raleigh Interfaith Thanksgiving service, held this year on Monday, November 25th at 7 pm at Millbrook Baptist Church, 1519 E. Millbrook Rd. We look forward to seeing you there, as we worship and fellowship ecumenically with our fellow children of God.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Sharing the Love of Christ,
Pastor Tim

Moving Forward Together

2024 Stewardship Campaign



Our 2024 Stewardship theme is Moving Forward Together

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 3:13-14*

Inspired by this familiar passage from Philippians, our 2024 Stewardship Campaign theme is Moving Forward Together.

As we look to our future and strive to build upon the growth and expanded ministries we have experienced, we are asking the congregation to help us write the next chapter for St. Philip by filling out the [2024 Questionnaire](#). This will be invaluable information for determining our priorities and formulating a budget to fund our ministries. So far we have received 25 questionnaires, however if you'd like to take part—you can at: [2024 Questionnaire](#).

We also asked for your prayers for the future of St. Philip, we've received 45 luggage tags back with prayers written—there are still plenty of blank tags for you to share your prayers, you'll find them in Kepley & the Narthex.

After prayerfully considering how you will respond to our needs and ministries, please complete the **Estimate of Giving Card** and either bring it to church, mail it in, or [online HERE](#). All of these options are confidential. Give thanks for all pledges submitted and for the many blessings we have received.

The Stewardship Committee appreciates you for your valuable input to Moving Forward Together to determine where God is calling us to go in ministry.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Philip, **Stewardship Committee**

Pastor Tim Poston, Wayland Smedley, Joe Edwards, Dave Wahlstrom, & Frank Bouknight

Help solve a mystery.....

Tell Pastor Tim about this Gift Card receive \$5.00!
(while supplies last)



Refugee Hope Partner's (RHP) Coat Collection & Sale



St. Philip's Brown Bag Ministries (BBM) has partnered with Refugee Hope Partners (RHP) to help collect coats for the refugee community at Cedar Point and in Wake County.

We are collecting coats until November 8. In early November (date TBD), we plan to send a group of volunteers to help with RHP's Coat Sale. This sale is an opportunity for those who need coats for the colder weather this coming winter to get quality coats for just a few dollars.

Please prayerfully consider if you can donate any new or gently used coats of any size. You can drop them in the labeled bins found in the office hallway, in Luther Hall, or in the Narthex.

Additionally, if you are interested in volunteering to help make the Coat Sale a success email Kai at Kai@st-philip.org

Outreach Highlights

HURRICANE RELIEF FOOD DRIVE

THANK YOU!

Hurricane Relief Food Drive Collection Success!

Thank you so much for participating in our 2nd Food Drive in two months!

The generosity you have shared has been nothing short of AMAZING!

In partnership with our other Triangle Conference Churches we have collected A LOT of food. By the time you see this, the truck will be delivering the food to Living Waters Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Cherokee, NC where there are hundreds of families that will be positively impacted by our collective gifts of food.

Every little bit makes a difference and St. Philip has once again lived out Sharing the Love of Christ. Thank you!



Outreach Opportunities You Can Get Involved In Today!

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 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





Grab dinner or just bring a snack and join us in the Music Room on the second Tuesday of each month starting November 12th, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

A Gathering of Grievors 'Chat & Chew'

We meet to discuss our losses, support each other, and to share our experience, strength, and hope with each other after the loss of a loved one.

This is a SAFE PLACE to talk about our loved one and to be understood in a culture that doesn't always support us in our grief. Our goal is to build a supportive Christian community in our time of need.

Mark you calendar now:

- ♥ Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 6-7:30 pm
- ♥ Tuesday, December 10, 2024 from 6-7:30 pm

We will meet the second Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30 pm in the St. Philip Music Room from now on.

The BASICS of
Pastor's Bible Study

On Wednesdays at 10:30 am & 6:45 pm in the music room.

Our topics include Faith, Tithing, Preaching, Sabbath, Healing, Justice, Transformation, and Music.

We anticipate continued high attendance and spirited conversation. Although we strongly encourage in-person attendance, we will also offer a Zoom option.

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

Everyone is welcome to join; we hope to see you there

God is good

**Interfaith Community
Thanksgiving Service**
November 25th 7:00 pm
at
Millbrook Baptist Church

Quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

The 50 quilts were blessed in October are the work of 7 diligent ladies who meet at the church twice to three times per month to tie the three layers of the quilts. The initial fabric cutting and final completion happens in our homes with our own supplies -thread and sewing machines and time. These quilts have benefitted from the many, many donated sheets over the past year for which we are most grateful,

The quilts will be boxed and taken to Grace Lutheran and on to LWR collection centers. Since LWR has changed their distribution policy to include the North American continent, we are hoping some of our efforts will go to ease the victims of recent hurricanes.

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



A Message from our Troop 342 & 342-G Scouts



More Scouts and a Scouter have been inducted into the Order of the Arrow at a recent district Camporee. Several members of the troop also enjoyed camping as their friends and leaders achieved several honors.



← Scouts Aaron and Jules prepare for the Order of the Arrow Ordeal Weekend, in which they humbly and cheerfully conduct service projects as part of their acceptance into the Order.

→ Scout Liv welcomes her and Jules's father, Assistant Scoutmaster Jose Negron, into Order of the Arrow. Additionally, Liv successfully completed National Youth Leadership Training, the top tier of training for scouts. Mr. Negron completed the camp portion of Woodbadge, the top tier of training for a Scouter.



St. Philip Lutheran can be very proud of this small but mighty troop!
We are certainly grateful for your sponsorship.

For membership information, please contact Scoutmaster Bill Drew at 919-623-6725.

Family Ministries

Family Ministry: For families with children grades 5 and under!

Join us twice a month for our Family Ministry designed to engage parents' children ages 0 through grade 5. This new ministry model is designed to empower and support families in nurturing their faith together in an approachable format.

Our goal is for this ministry to provide a place where families can gather, connect, and grow together.

To do this, we are planning to use a parent-centered approach that models faith, builds community, addresses the growing sense of parental loneliness and burnout in our society, and promotes healthy child development in a safe space.

This month join us on Sunday afternoons, November 3 & 17 from 3:30-5:15pm. We end our time together with a simple meal!

For additional information or if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kai@st-philip.org

Children/Youth & Family Calendar

November

3 -	Family Ministry w/ Dinner (birth-grade 5 + parents/guardians) Youth Group (grades 6-12)	3:30-5:15pm 6-7:30pm
17 -	Family Ministry w/ Dinner (birth-grade 5 + parents/guardians) Youth Group (grades 6-12)	3:30-5:15pm 6-7:30pm



St. Philip Lutheran Preschool

What a fun month we had in October, a trip to the NC Farmer's Market for apples and pumpkins, Donuts with our Dads, an Usborne/PaperPie Book Fair, School Picture Day and Fall parties where we dressed up in our favorite costumes!

In November, all the classes talk about being thankful for our many blessings as well as America's first Thanksgiving. The Preschool celebrates Thanksgiving with a feast and the children dress up as either Pilgrims or American Indians as we re-enact the first Thanksgiving with our friends!

St. Philip Preschool is very thankful for the congregation who have opened their hearts to these precious little children! May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends!

**A Celebration of Music
Friday, October 18th**

Presenting
Paul & Sophia Chandley



*Two pianos
Four Hands
Two Hearts*



We had approximately 45 people attend this special concert!



Special Halloween music was complimented by a fun reception to follow in the Parlor!



Ministry Needs:

The Columbarium/Memorial Garden Team—
We need additional folks on the team! Contact Mary Ellen Wrisley for more information at 919-395-5727

Offer a warm hello—Please see the sign up sheet to be a greeter on a Sunday morning! It is a great way to get to know folks and to offer hospitality to all our brothers and sisters! Learn more by contacting Barbara Sullivan text or call: 919-271-3283 or barbarabsullivan@gmail.com.

Help broadcast our worship services— St. Philip worship services reach on average 40-50 people each week online, via Facebook, Zoom and YouTube! Their worship experience is also accessed beyond the live streaming! The A/V teams for *both* services are in need of more volunteers to increase the rotation and lighten the load on the 3-4 people who serve every week. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Contact [Regan Wang](#), [Don Alexander](#) or [Jane](#) in the office to learn more!

SAINTS & SINNERS

You are invited to a yummy luncheon on Tuesday, November 12th at 11:30 in Luther Hall.

The program this month will be a time of music led by Lois Knauff and Mike Maness!

Please RSVP for planning purposes to Carole Mason at 919-210-0727 by 11/6/24. Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

In September—

Josh Starling of North Raleigh ministries brought us news and videos about what North Raleigh Ministries is doing for the people who come to their pantry and their counseling centers.



A Trunk-or-Treat Thank You!

A big thank you to all our Trunk or Treat volunteers and for those that came out! We had a wonderful afternoon and about 150 people came through to enjoy our trunks, games, and some cider and cookies!





Attention ALL Golfers (including those that just want to be)

Based on the huge success of our last St. Philip golf outing organized by John Sullivan, we are planning another outing before the winter sets in as follows:

Date: Thursday, November 14
Tee Times: 11:03, 11:12, 11:19 am (3 tee times to start)
Location: River Ridge Golf Club, 3224 Auburn Knightdale Rd., Raleigh
Cost: \$45 for seniors over 60 years old and \$65 for youngsters
(price includes 18 holes with cart and range balls)

Please note that we will play a 4 person "captain's choice" or "scramble" format. This means we will play "best ball" for each shot and you do not have to be a great golfer to join in this fun, fellowship opportunity. We would love to get at least 3 foursomes out this time!

To reserve your spot, please send an email to Paul Augustowski at jamapam2k@aol.com or call 832-205-4696. Let Paul know your level of experience and your approximate handicap, if you have one, so we can balance the skill level in each foursome as best as possible.

Please let Paul know if you or your friends are interested as soon as possible and no later than Nov. 10th

Save the Date! December 15

We hope that you can join us on Sunday December 15 for our congregational Christmas event for all ages!



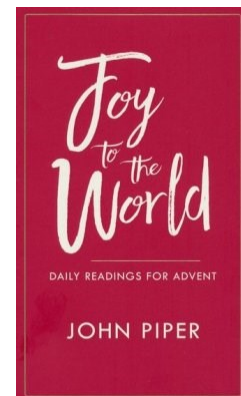
Advent is for adoring Jesus

It is a season of preparation for that special day when we mark Immanuel's arrival—the coming of our eternal God in frail, human flesh.

This is the greatest wonder of history's wonders, something too stupendous to celebrate just on one day. Advent is a way of lengthening the joy of Christmas.

Our prayer is that God would use these readings from *Joy to the World* by John Piper to deepen and sweeten your adoration of Jesus this December and keep him as the center and greatest treasure of your Christmas season.

Pick up your copy—available by 11/25 to be ready for the First Sunday of Advent, 12/1/24.



Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday, November 19th 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



Join us at 12:00 pm on Thursday, November 7th at Relish

Creedmoor Rd.

Please contact Debbie Voress for the reservation. 919-782-2622

Every 1st Thursday!

Hope to see you there!



We will celebrate a Year-end dinner with the Pub Ministry group on Tuesday—12/3/24 @ 6:30 pm at

Milton's Pizza & Pasta, in the Six Forks Station center

Please RSVP to Dave Wahlstrom at dave00256@gmail.com.

Questions? contact Carol Rogers parakayaker@gmail.com

Everyone is invited!!

Pub Ministry

The Pub Ministry and the Fellowship Supper Groups will meet on Tuesday, December 3rd, 6:30 pm at Milton's Pizza & Pasta in Six Forks Station center for a Year-end dinner. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to Dave Wahlstrom at dave00256@gmail.com.

Adult Book Club

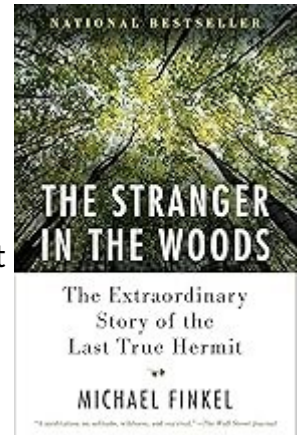
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 12/3 at 10am in the Parlor. We will be discussing *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel

Many people dream of escaping modern life, but most will never act on it. This is the remarkable true story of a man who lived alone in the woods of Maine for 27 years, making this dream a reality—not out of anger at the world, but simply because he preferred to live on his own.

We hope to see you there!

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



Cup of Joy— This fellowship ministry opportunity has been revived!

Please take a few minutes after worship to enjoy a cup of coffee—or tea—and chat with your fellow worshippers!

Sharing a Cup of Joy on Sunday mornings after worshipping and praising God gives us all an opportunity to Share the Love of Christ!

See you on Sunday morning!



Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In September, we exceeded our income budget for the second month in a row and it was our best month this year. Thank you!

For the month, total income was \$60,852, or \$8,252 over plan while expenses were \$49,158, or \$1,542 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$433,872, or \$40,071 under plan, while expenses were \$447,727, or \$20,873 under plan. Expenses have exceeded income by \$13,856.

We remain well behind plan on income, but we have closed the gap a bit in the last two months because of your generosity. We ask your continued prayers for us to make additional progress during the remaining two months of 2024.

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

Blessings,
Jim Beck
Finance Chair

Giving						
	Actual	Plan	%			
September 2024	\$ 60,852	\$ 52,600	116%	September, 2024		
Year to Date	\$433,872	\$ 473,951	92%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$ 58,879	\$ 44,167	133%	\$401,531	\$397,500	101%
Other Income	\$ 1,973	\$ 8,433	23%	\$ 32,341	\$ 76,451	42%
Total Income	\$ 60,852	\$ 52,600	116%	\$433,872	\$473,951	92%
Expenses	\$ 49,158	\$ 50,700	97%	\$ 447,727	\$468,601	96%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 11,694	\$ 1,900		\$ (13,855)	\$ 5,350	

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

GIVE
Thanks

November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	2 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir
3 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 3:30 Family Ministry 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry Training 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Y12SR 6:30 pm Congregation Council	4 1:30 pm Staff 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry 6:30 pm Property Team	5 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:30 am Bible Study 6:45 pm Bible Study	7 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA	8 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	9 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir practice 7:00 pm AA
10 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 pm Y12SR	11 6:30 pm Finance	12 11:30 am Saints & Sinners 6:00 pm Gathering of Grievers 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Preschool Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13 10:30 am Bible Study 6:45 pm Bible Study	14 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm NA 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	15 10:00 am AI Anon 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	16 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
17 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 3:30 Family Ministry 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry Training 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Y12SR	18 1:30 pm Staff	19 9:30 am Breakfast Group 6:00 pm Gathering of Grievers 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20 10:30 am Bible Study 6:45 pm Bible Study	21 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA	22 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	23 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
24 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 3:45 pm Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 pm Y12SR	25 1:30 pm Staff 7:00 pm Interfaith Worship	26 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	27 10:30 am Bible Study 6:45 pm Bible Study	28 Thanksgiving Day <i>Office Closed</i> 6:30 pm NA	29 <i>Office Closed</i> 10:00 am AI Anon 7:00 pm AA	30 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA



Sunday Morning Worship
9:00 am – Crossing Contemporary

11:00 am – Traditional style

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
Regan@st-Philip.org

919-846-2992
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Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

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

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[@St_PhilipELCA](#)



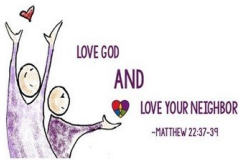
[Instagram](#)
[stplcraleigh](#)



St. Philip Lutheran Church

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www.St-Philip.org



WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST!

CHANGE YOUR
Clocks

Saturday 11/2
