

The Epistle

January 2025

St Philip Lutheran Church
7304 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh NC
St Philipborg

Pastor's Message

Happy New Year! It occurs to me that I've served as your pastor for five years now. How time flies! And what an honor. In my opinion, this has been an incredible five years, and I thank you all for that. We have worshipped together, fellowshiped together, and studied God's Word together.

God has blessed us in so many ways. We continue to have many first-time visitors who enter without knowing anyone here. Many of them become repeat visitors, and many of that group join us officially. I believe we have had 75 new members during these past five years. Many of them remark how warm and welcoming we are here, as well as being outreach—and service-oriented.

Our generosity with our time, talents, and treasure has really been overwhelming to see. I have never served a church quite this generous. I think we are becoming more faithful in our discipleship as time passes. I am so joyful to have been called here.

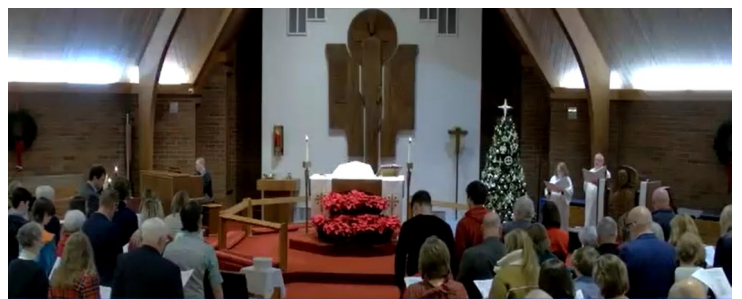
As we stand at the cusp of a new year, I often hear people say, "I can't wait to turn the page on [whatever the year happens to be]." They say that when they have had a particularly difficult year. The way we structure time is quite random, actually; nothing magically changes when we take down one calendar and put up another one. But there is something to be said for making a new start. There is something to be said for seeking to leave behind loss, grief, mourning, and struggles. And if turning the page on an old year and welcoming a new "last number" helps, then I say, go for it!

For everyone who has had a troublesome 2024, I hope 2025 brings respite and healing. For anyone who has had a crippling 2024, I pray you have hope, peace, and joy in 2025. I pray the blessings of God may overflow for all of us in this new year. May God "grant you the desires of your heart" this upcoming year (Psalm 37: 4). Happy New Year, my friends!

Sharing the love of Christ!
Pastor Tim

Christmas Eve

A total of 395 people worshipped with St. Philip, 278 in person and the balance on line!



You Are Invited to This Wonderful Event

Anyone interested in learning more about hunger, food insecurity, and this growing need in our community are welcome to attend this event hosted by Bread for the World on Saturday, January 25.

Representatives from congregations and community organizations on the front lines of fighting food insecurity (including North Raleigh Ministries, and Families Together) have been invited to attend as well. If you have any questions, please contact Kai@st-philip.org

 **BREAD** FOR THE WORLD **NOURISH** our *FUTURE*

United for our Future



Join Bread for the World as we gather to unite our voices to end hunger!

Build Your Knowledge:

In the morning, join Eugene Cho, President and CEO of Bread for the World and other experts to learn about food insecurity at home and abroad, and how Bread for the World's Nourish our Future campaign encourages lawmakers to make ending hunger a priority.

Make Your Voice Heard:

In the afternoon, join Bread for the World members from across the state to welcome lawmakers, staffers, and other policy leaders. Together, we will ask them to make ending hunger a priority, and to commit to Bread's Nourish our Future campaign.

REGISTER BY
SCANNING
THE QR CODE

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Highland United Methodist Church



A \$20 suggested donation covers lunch, materials, coffee, and snacks throughout the day. College students are invited free of charge.

Outreach Highlights



Giving Trees – Thank you!

This year St. Philip sponsored 19 children through the Families Together Holiday Smiles Program AND supported 34 families with gift cards through the Refugee Hope Partners Angel Tree Program. Our impact through these giving trees is estimated at helping between 110-150 individuals have a more meaningful and warm Christmas season.

- The larger Families Together Holiday Smiles program provided gifts for 300+ children in our community this Christmas.
- The larger Refugee Hope Partners Angel Tree Program provided gift-cards to 200+ families in our community this Christmas.

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



Brown Bag Ministries
Let hope fly



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



Would you be interested in attending a NC Hurricanes Game on Feb. 8th?



We're working on putting together a St. Philip Fellowship event—so all of the details are not worked out yet. But, we need to know how many folks would be interested—please contact Wayland Smedley at 715-559-6162 or wsmedleycpa@gmail.com

Your Council has been listening to your desire for more fellowship time—and brainstorming for ideas!



A Gathering of Grievors 'Chat & Chew'

Grab dinner or just bring a snack and join us in the Music Room on the second Tuesday of each month starting December 10th, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

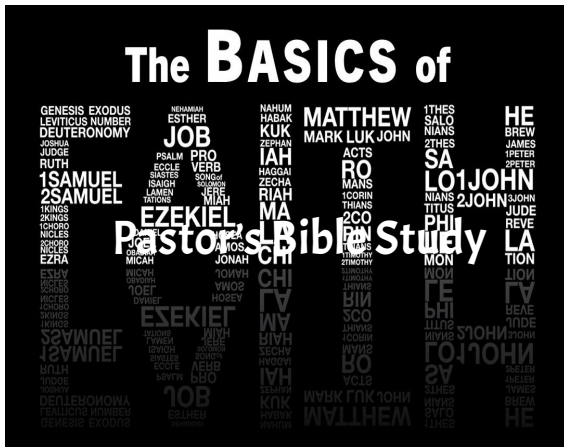
We meet to discuss our losses, support each other, and to share our experience, strength, and hope with each other after the loss of a loved one.

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 your calendar now:

♥ Tuesday, January 14, 2025 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.



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

Our topics include the 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!

Music Ministries



Voices of Praise Adult Choir

The choir sings in Sunday traditional services. Rehearsal is at 7:00 pm on Thursdays.

The Bells of St. Philip Handbell Choir

We meet on Sundays at 5:00 in the Sanctuary – You do not need previous experience or ability to read music. Just a desire to make a joyful noise to the Lord! (really!)

Come on out and give it a try!

Crossing Praise Team

Adults and any brave high school students are welcome to join this group! This team leads worship at the 9:00 Contemporary service. Practice is held before Sunday morning worship in Kepley Hall.

Contact [Regan Wang](#) for more information

Annual Congregation Meeting

1/26/25 in between services at 10:15

Family Ministries

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

All families with children grade 5 and under are invited to join us for a late afternoon where we check in with each other, sing a song or two, have some kid friendly learning + crafts + and free play games, adult conversation about a podcast or book of the Bible, and a family meal afterwards!

This month join us on Sunday afternoons, January 12 & 26 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

January

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1/12—Family Ministry w/ Dinner (birth-grade 5 + parents/guardians) | 3:30—5:30pm |
| 1/26—Family Ministry w/ Dinner (birth-grade 5 + parents/guardians) | 3:30—5:30pm |
| 1/26—Youth Group—Pizza & Board Game Night | 5:30 —7:30 pm |



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 13th. Their sweet voices filled the sanctuary with lots of love, JOY and smiles!!

**St. Philip Lutheran
Preschool**

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 2025-2026 school year begins January 2nd for preschool families and church members. It will open to the public on January 21st. We would like to fill our classes to capacity so please tell your friends and neighbors to come and visit us at the preschool.

Contact Leigh Anne Barham at 919-870-5841 or 919-818-9585 for more information.

God bless you all and Happy New Year!!



ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

SAINTS & SINNERS

You are invited to a yummy luncheon
on Tuesday, January 14th at 11:30
in Luther Hall.

You can expect a delicious lunch prepared by our own
Debbie Coccarelli and an interesting program. Please RSVP
for planning purposes to Carole Mason at 919-210-0727.

Everyone is welcome, we hope to see you there!

In December—

We enjoyed Christmas festivities, games and our preschoolers who came to sing!



Christmas Interactive Theater & Dinner

We had a fantastic time together as a congregation 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



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

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday, January 21st 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, January 2nd at Saints & Scholars on Spring Forest Rd.

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

Every 1st Thursday!
Hope to see you there!



We will start the New Year out on Tuesday—1/28/25 @ 6:30 pm at Falls River Café on Durant Rd.

Questions? contact Carol Rogers parakayaker@gmail.com

Everyone is invited!!

Pub Ministry

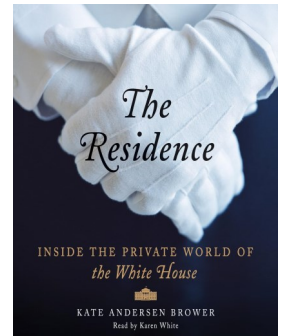
The Pub Ministry Group will meet on Tuesday, January 28th, 6:30 pm at Cape fear Seafood Restaurant on Spring Forest Rd. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to Dave Wahlstrom at dave00256@gmail.com.

Adult Book Club

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 1/28 at 10am in the Parlor. We will be discussing *The Residence* by Andersen Brower

A remarkable history with elements of both In the President's Secret Service and The Butler, *The Residence* offers an intimate account of the service staff of the White House, from the Kennedys to the Obamas.



America's first families are unknowable in many ways. No one has insight into their true character like the people who serve their meals and make their beds every day. Full of stories and details by turns dramatic, humorous, and heartwarming, *The Residence* reveals daily life in the White House as it is really lived through the voices of the maids, butlers, cooks, florists, doormen, engineers, and others who tend to the needs of the president and first family.

We hope to see you there!

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

Cup of Joy—

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,

Thank you and praise God, for we had a strong rebound in November due to your generous giving.

For the month, total income was \$69,599, or \$16,999 over plan and expenses were \$45,611, or \$4,289 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, total income was \$549,322, or \$29,829 under plan, while expenses were \$544,502, or \$29,449 under plan. Income has exceeded expenses by \$4,819.

Last month we announced that a member had pledged a \$10,000 contribution as a matching gift challenge. We are pleased to report that the matching contributions have exceeded the \$10,000 goal. As a result of that combined with other faithful giving, we anticipate that December will be another strong month and are cautiously optimistic that income will meet or exceed expenses, including budgeted reserves.

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

Blessings,

Jim Beck
Finance Chair

				November 2024		
Giving	Actual	Plan	%			
November 2024	\$ 69,599	\$ 52,600	132%			
Year to Date	\$549,322	\$ 579,151	95%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$ 65,843	\$ 44,167	149%	\$506,456	\$484,833	104%
Other Income	\$ 3,756	\$ 8,433	45%	\$ 42,865	\$ 93,318	46%
Total Income	\$ 69,599	\$ 52,600	132%	\$549,322	\$579,151	95%
Expenses						
Expenses	\$ 45,511	\$ 49,800	91%	\$ 544,502	\$573,951	95%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 24,088	\$ 2,800		\$ 4,819	\$ 5,200	

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

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



JANUARY

birthdays & anniversaries

Brad & Amy Halferty	1/6/1996	29 yrs.
Carlton & Annette Howard	1/23/2009	15 yrs.

1/1	Caroline Linker	1/15	Alayna Carlson
1/1	Laura Tirado	1/16	Timothy Casadonte
1/2	Christine Grantham	1/18	Jeania Schaper
1/3	Nyah Schroeder	1/21	Anne Travis
1/5	Brad Halferty	1/21	Evelyn Flora
1/7	Don Teeter	1/24	Cindy Wolfe
1/9	Mary Lee Steinke	1/24	Oliver Smedley
1/9	Sydney Grantham	1/25	Kathryn Shermer
1/10	Rob Wiener	1/28	JoAnn Smith
1/11	Crystal Ridenhour	1/30	Amy Halferty
1/11	Emeline Kanupp	1/30	Patty Herman
1/12	Kathy Casadonte		
1/13	Janice Carpenter		





WORSHIP WITH US

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
Kai@st-philip.org

Regan Wang
Director of Worship & Music
Ministries
Regan@st-Philip.org

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

Jane Gue
Office Administrator
admin@st-philip.org

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

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Church, Raleigh



Twitter

@St_PhilipELCA



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St. Philip Lutheran Church

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www.St-Philip.org



O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to 
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.