



The Epistle

April, 2025

St. Philip Lutheran Church

Pastor's Message

The rebirth of spring and Lent is palpable this year. As Bible study resumed after a short winter break, we had 39 people in attendance between morning and evening sessions. There were 25 in the morning, which meant every single seat was taken. We continue to address the "Basics of the Christian Faith," and we are currently on the topic of "Transformation." Following that, we will examine "Music." We continue to invite everyone out to study scripture together, even if – especially if – you have never attended before.

Our weekly contemplative "Taizé" worship services continue throughout Lent at 6:30 pm. The services are led by Dan Heyl, the chair of our Worship and Music committee and continue to be appreciated. Periods of silence are intermingled with scripture readings, prayer, and singing. It is a peaceful time during our otherwise hectic life schedules. We have historically had approximately six to eight people attend, but so far this year, we are averaging 14. So thank you, Dan.

We recently offered volunteer training for Refugee Hope Partners (RHP) here at St. Philip in between Sunday morning worship services. The refugee community in American is currently facing difficult times, financially and otherwise. We are grateful to partner with RHP to assist our local community. A few years ago, I would think perhaps four or five people would have shown up, but 25+ people came out for the training. Again, the room was full! Thank you, Kai, for providing this opportunity, and thank you, everyone who attended. I continue to be in awe of our ever-increasing spirit of outreach, generosity, compassion, and service.

We will shortly install six new Stephen Ministers here to help accompany people who are undergoing struggles and life transitions. Thank you for responding to the call, Kathy Casadonte, Tracey Maroney, Paula Metivier, Corbett Lawrence, HB Williamson, and Paul Lester. They have now finished their training with our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Kathy Blum and Dan Heyl. We look forward to the ministry these disciples will accomplish. If you would like a Stephen Minister to help walk alongside you through a difficult season of your life, please reach out to me, Kathy Blum, or Dan Heyl. We all need support at times in our lives' journeys.

Church Council had a successful annual retreat recently, led by Heidi Kleine. We are always appreciative when a retreat leader can help us stretch our vision for our congregation.

Moreover, our new A/V system is due to be installed this coming week. What an improvement that will be! Both worship services and spaces will now be unified in terms of this system. Please take advantage of the opportunity to come out and be trained with others on Sat., Apr. 5, at 9 am. A special thank you to Regan Wang and Phil Massey for countless hours of seeing this project come to fruition.

Finally, our spring property workday will also be Sat. Apr. 5 at 8:30am. If you're not attending the A/V system training, please come out and join us as we beautify our property here.

Sharing the Love of Christ in Lent,
Pastor Tim

through to April 9th
in the Sanctuary



A Gathering of Grievors 'Chat & Chew'

Tuesday, April 8th

Grab dinner or just bring a snack and join us in the Music Room on the second Tuesday of each month 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, April 8, 2025 from 6-7:30 pm

Holy Week Worship

4/13-4/20/25

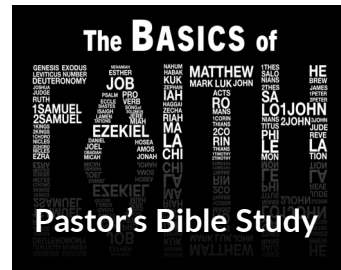
Palm/Passion Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday 1:00 & 8:00

Good Friday 1:00 & 7:00

Easter Sunday

9:00—Crossing 11:00 - Traditional



On Wednesdays During Lent at 10:30 am & 7:00 pm in the music room.

Our topics include 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!

Message from the Congregation Council

The Church Council enjoyed another uplifting retreat this year, a six-hour event that was held on Saturday, March 15, in Luther Hall. Facilitated by Heidi Kleine, a certified life, mental fitness and leadership coach (and also a lifelong Lutheran), we were challenged to "Design for Belonging" and to better address some of the "Barriers to Volunteering."

With a clear appreciation for the many blessings and the wonderful momentum our church has enjoyed in recent years, our workshop time was spent discussing ways to sustain that progress and opportunities to further our Love of Christ as a community in faith. From last year's congregation survey and from various Council meeting discussions, we chose to focus on the following topics:

- Youth and family engagement
- Volunteer involvement (discussed during the retreat presentations)
- Sustained Growth
- Process for follow-up with visitors and former members
- Vision Statement / Vision for future (deferred as a single topic for a full day future meeting)
- Communication Strategy

After very lively brainstorming sessions, we selected some tangible actions and added to our goals for 2025.

- Complete installation of an upgraded audio-visual system for both worship spaces (i.e. The A/V Project)
- Refresh our church website and then consider a new church logo and ways to expand our social media presence
- Continue work on job descriptions (JDs) so that volunteers are better informed about what they are being asked to do - staff JDs were completed in 2024; target completion of JDs for Council Executive Committee and Council members in 2025
- Lean into Family Ministry (FM) including regular contributions to the FM dinners
- Reach out directly to visitors and prior members (our church is in a different place today) to understand how we can better assist and to provide a spirit of belonging
- Continue our "Cup of Joy" and welcome donations of treats and funds
- Develop a policy and bylaws for endowments to our church including acceptance and stewardship of funds without creating dependence
- Identify and model opportunities for "informal fellowship spaces" and prayer
- Organize a fellowship dinner after our combined service on the fifth Sunday in a month, branded as "Fellowship Sunday," at least twice this year

By the grace of God, and with the prayerful support of our congregation, the Council hopes to deliver on these goals and keep our momentum going!

In His Name,

Paul Augustowski, Council President '25



SAVE THE DATE! Saturday morning, April 5th—8:30 -12

Property Ministry Work Day

Many volunteers will be needed to join in the Spring Property Work Day!

We will be sprucing up, pruning and pick up outside and cleaning interior furniture & woodwork.

Outreach Highlights

Refugee Hope Partners (RHP) Volunteer Orientation Training



THANK YOU!

Wow! We had a wonderful turnout for our the RHP Orientation Training on Sunday, March 9, and we also had some people attend the training on Wednesday, March 5.

We want to thank everyone who has expressed an interest in volunteering with RHP and look forward to hearing about shared experiences with refugee children in our community.

NEW Outreach Opportunity:

Families Together Meal Ministry: Dinner Volunteers Needed



On the third Thursday of the month, join Families Together in making a meaningful impact by providing a warm meal for families in their shelter and housing programs during their Monthly Workshops.

These gatherings offer adults valuable guidance from our Housing & Family Services Team, while children engage in enriching activities. A shared meal before each session fosters connection and support among families.

How You Can Help

Families Together invites volunteers from their church partners to prepare and serve a nutritious meal for approximately 20 people, including:

- ☒ Entrée, dessert, and beverages
- ☒ Paper goods and serving supplies

Homemade meals are wonderful, but if cooking isn't an option, restaurant-prepared meals are also welcome.

Volunteers are encouraged (but not required) to stay and engage with families after dinner.

Workshops take place on the third Thursday of each month at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church.

Sign up to volunteer here: [Families Together: Workshop Meal Ministry](#) or email Kai@st-philip.org to get the link!

Outreach Opportunities You Can Get Involved In Today!

Ongoing Opportunities to get connected:

- ♥ **North Raleigh Ministries** – Volunteer at the Food Pantry (**TOP NEED!**) and 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”
- ♥ **Refugee Hope Partners**—Help stock RHP’s Baby closet located at St. Marks United Methodist Church - space that has opened its doors to new and expecting refugee mothers since 2021.
[Learn more here.](#)
- ♥ **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

St. Philip's Brown Bag Ministry (BBM) Needs Your Help



In our effort to help reduce rising food insecurity in our community, our BBM needs your help.

Due to some changing circumstances BBM is in desperate need of help to make sure we have enough food for the lunches that get packed twice a month.

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday, our BBM packs 430 meals that are then delivered to Refugee Families in our community. Each lunch that is packed includes a sandwich, fruit, a salty snack, and a sweet snack.

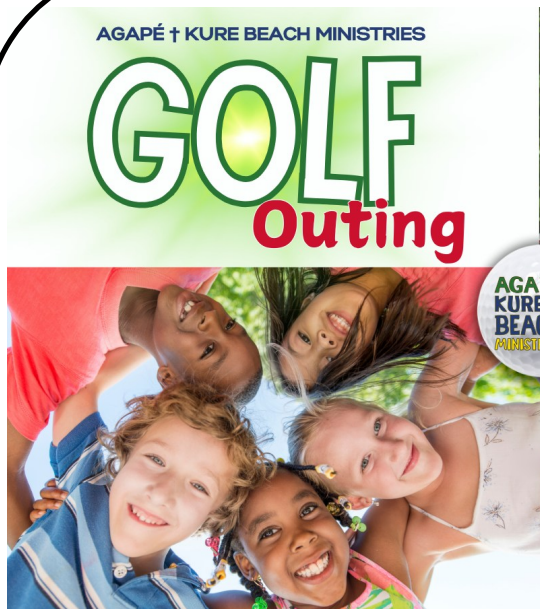
There are donation collection bins available for you to drop off any of the following items for an ongoing basis. Each Saturday before a BBM Saturday, we will send an email asking for additional help if it looks like we will not have enough donations for that packing day.

Items we need help collecting:

- ♥ **SALTY SNACK:** Chips; Cheese Crackers; Pretzels; Popcorn
(we try to avoid Peanut Butter Crackers since the sandwiches are often PB Sandwiches)
- ♥ **SWEET SNACK:** Granola bars; Cookies; etc.

We're also working on creating an online shopping list so that you could order items and have them shipped directly to the church. Keep an eye out for that to go live in the near future.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please reach out to either Stacey Bell at raleighbells@gmail.com or to Kai Thurow at Kai@st-philip.org



HELP SEND KIDS TO CAMP! JOIN US MAY 19TH

LOCHMERE GOLF CLUB



HELP SUPPORT CAMPSHIP FUNDS
& PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT!

Outing Schedule:

8:00 AM Check-in opens
8:00 AM Coffee, Donuts & Biscuits
8:45 AM "Putt for All"
9:10 AM Tee Off Shot gun
(Boxed lunch served on the course)
When your round is done, head home!

INTERESTED?

Contact

[John Sullivan](mailto:jsull77@gmail.com) for
more information
jsull77@gmail.com

Format: 4 Person Scramble

Registration Fee: Individual: \$100.00 Foursome: \$380.00

12 Team Mulligans: \$400.00

We request that all golfers pay in advance.

Funds raised in this Golf Event will be used to provide camperships to attend camp and for program development. It is our policy that no one be turned away from camp programs due to lack of funds.

Family Ministry April Calendar

(Families with children Grade 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!

4/13 – Family Ministry w/ Dinner

3:30-5pm

4/27 – Family Ministry w/ Dinner

3:30-5pm

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

Youth Group April Calendar

(Grades 5-12)



4/12 – (Saturday) ParTee Shack Day (Mingolf + Arcade)

We're taking a Saturday outing to ParTee Shack to have fun playing unique mini golf courses, playing some arcade games, and getting to know each other better!

Cost: It's FREE for you to attend. If you want to play additional arcade games, you may want to bring some extra money for that!

Transportation: We'll ride together in Kai's mini-van. We'll meet at 10:15am and plan to depart from the church parking lot no later than 10:30am. We'll

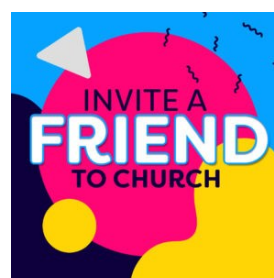
plan to return to the church parking lot by 3:00pm.

Registration for this event closed March 30.

Sign up for Summer Camp!

It's that time of year already! Summer is coming soon, and we are blessed to have amazing Lutheran summer camps here in North Carolina that offer a variety of fantastic half week or full week summer camp experiences that will shape the faith lives of your children.

Check out all the different options at these camps by visiting their websites today. If you are interested in attending and need a scholarship, contact Kai for more information.





SAVE THE DATE: Agapé Day Camp July 7-11

This summer, St. Philip is partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh for our Agapé Day Camp week July 7-11.

All current Kindergarten-5th grade youth (rising 1st-6th graders) are eligible to attend.

Day Camp days take place at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh and run from 9am-3pm (Monday-Thursday) and 9am-12pm (Friday). There will be a closing program on Thursday evening at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 6:30pm.

Each day you send a packed lunch for your child, and we provide the snacks. During the week we'll have lots of great games, songs, skits, crafts, nature activities, Bible Studies, service projects, and lots more!

Trained summer staff from Agapé Kure Beach Ministries come to Good Shepherd to lead and host the program.



St. Philip Lutheran Preschool

Our classes will enjoy celebrating Easter with an Easter egg hunt, party and learning the true meaning of Easter from God's Word this month! We are thankful that Jesus gave us life!! April is filled with Spring Break, Spring Art Show, and our Spring pictures!! Everyone is welcome to visit our Spring Art Show on Thursday, April 24 and Friday, April 25 in Luther Hall. There will be many "masterpieces" on display!!

Our registration for the 2025-2026 school year is ongoing. Several of our classes are full but if you are interested in attending next year or knowing someone who is, please contact us at 919-870-5841 or Leigh Anne Barham

at 919-818-9585. Please feel free to stop by and visit with us!! We love to "show off" our wonderful school!!

Thanks for opening your doors to us and for all your love and support throughout the year!

COMING SOON! The new Audio/Visual system will be installed in time for Easter! There will be an open training session on Saturday, April 5, 9-11:00 am for both service operations. This training is for everyone who is interested in helping to serve in worship. This is a great opportunity for those who have thought about helping out, but didn't feel they would be qualified—now we are all starting out at the same point!

It is our hope that we can build up the A/V teams so that everyone can serve just once a month! You can choose how often you would like to serve and which role you would like to do. We use a sign up to allow everyone to schedule according to their needs — and to be sure that the services are covered. Currently due to a variety of reasons, our teams are now just 5-6 people to cover 2 & 3 positions at both services.

If you have questions or would just like to learn a bit more please contact [Regan Wang](#) Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this important ministry.

Faith & Fellowship

Monthly Breakfast Group—

Tuesday, April 15th 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, April 3th at Winston's Grill Falls of Neuse Rd.

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

Every 1st Thursday!
Hope to see you there!



We will meet on Tuesday—4/22/25 @ 6:30 pm at Poppyseed Market on Lead Mine Rd.

Questions? contact Carol Rogers
parakayaker@gmail.com

Everyone is invited!!

Pub Ministry

The Pub Ministry Group will meet on Tuesday, April 22nd, 6:30 pm at Big Daddy's Burger Bar on Falls of Neuse Rd.

Everyone is welcome!

Let Joe Edwards know if you plan to attend for reservations. edwardsja@aol.com

Adult Book Club

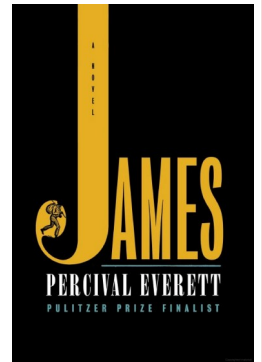
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 4/22 at 10am in the Parlor. We will be discussing *James: A Novel* by Percival Everett.

A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

Available at the Wake County Library.

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



**Tuesday, April 8th
11:30 in Luther Hall.**

You are invited to a yummy luncheon on

You can expect a delicious lunch prepared by our own Debbie Coccarelli and an interesting program.

This month the program will be a presentation from Springmoor Life Care Retirement Community about a new program they've started to bring comfort and support within your own home.

Please RSVP for planning purposes to Carole Mason at 919-210-0727.



Message from Finance Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After a record start in the first month of the year, our income fell off quite a bit in February and was well short of our congregationally approved plan.

For the month, our income was \$34,620, or \$17,898 under plan, and the lowest income for February in at least five years. Expenses were \$49,408, or \$1,186 under plan. On a year-to-date basis, income was \$92,150, or \$12,887 under plan, and expenses were \$112,161, or 3,974 under plan. Expenses have exceeded income by \$20,011 so far this year.

While we find ourselves somewhat behind financially early in 2025, last year demonstrated just how committed you are in your generous support of our ministries and mission. As a result of this and our faith in God's blessings, we are confident that we will move positively as the year progresses.

Thank you for all you do to support the ministries at St. Philip.

Blessings,
Jim Beck, Finance Chair

				February 2025		
Giving						
	Actual	Plan	%			
February 2025	\$ 34,620	\$ 52,519	66%			
Year to Date	\$ 92,150	\$105,037	88%			
Category	Current Month Actual	Current Month Plan	%	YTD Actual	YTD Plan	%
Income						
General Fund	\$ 31,711	\$ 45,000	70%	\$ 82,935	\$ 90,000	95%
Other Income	\$ 2,909	\$ 7,519	39%	\$ 6,215	\$ 15,037	41%
Total Income	\$ 34,620	\$ 52,519	66%	\$ 92,150	\$ 105,037	88%
Expenses	\$ 49,408	\$ 50,594	98%	\$ 112,161	\$ 108,187	104%
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ (14,788)	\$ 1,925		\$ (20,011)	\$ (3,150)	

The 2024 Annual Budgeted Revenue needed to meet expenses is \$636,624

Mark Your Calendars!
Property Spring Work Day
Saturday April 5th 8:30—12 noon



IN YOU IT CASE CYMI MISSED MI

Refugee Hope Partners Orientation Training was on Sunday, March 9, and we also had some people attend the training on Wednesday, March 5.



Congregation Council Annual Retreat



On March 15th, the Council gathered together for their annual retreat. The Church Council enjoyed an uplifting retreat this year, a six-hour event that was facilitated by Heidi Kleine, a certified life, mental fitness and leadership coach (and also a lifelong Lutheran), we were challenged to "Design for Belonging" and to better address some of the "Barriers to Volunteering."

The St. Philip Men's Pub Ministry met on March 25th at Vivo Ristorante with 26 attendees. We were honored to have Ed Helmey drop by with greetings and best wishes. The Pub voted on several key items for the year ahead. Such as approving the recognition of our beloved leader, Dave Wahlstrom, at a future date when Betty and family can attend.

We also agreed to continue to fully promote the North Raleigh Ministries' annual food drive in September—promotion of the food drive Ministries as well as our participation in two work days at their facility.

We will be serving and sharing the love of Christ for various activities at St. Philip.

The Men's Pub Ministry aspires to carry on the legacy of Dave Wahlstrom in both fellowship and service. We invite all men of St. Philip to join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month for food and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Edwards



Girl Scout Sunday

St. Philip hosts 5 Girl Scout Troops for their weekly and monthly meetings. We were blessed to have all 5 Troops represented in church on Sunday March 9th—at both services!

We celebrated all Scouts—Boys & Girls and the adults who lead them now or have ever led Scouts—Like Ken Grant who was a GS Leader for more than 10 years with his own daughters!



At the 5th Sunday United Worship Service on March 30th we celebrated 2 Baptisms and all these children to hear Kai's Children's Message!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	2 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Bible Study	3 12:00 pm Ladies Lunch 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Voices of Praise Choir	4 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	5 8:30 am Property Work Day 9:00 am A/V Training 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir practice
6 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 5:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Y12SR	7 1:30 pm Staff 6:30 pm Property Team	8 11:00 am Saints & Sinners 6:00 pm Gathering of Grievors 6:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm Preschool Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	9 9:30 am Senior Adult Ministry 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Bible Study	10 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise Choir	11 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	12 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 10:00 am Youth Group 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:00 am Crossing Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Augsburg Class 11:00 am Traditional Worship 1:30 pm Shiloh Restoration 3:30 pm Family Ministry 6:30 pm Congregation Council 7:00 pm Y12SR	14	15 9:30 am Breakfast Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	16	17 Maundy Thursday 1:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Worship	18 Good Friday 10:00 am Al Anon 1:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm AA	19 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 7:00 pm AA
20 Easter Sunday 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	21 Office Closed	22 10:00 am Book Club 6:30 pm Pub Ministry 6:30 pm Fellowship Supper 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	23	24 10:00 am Quilting Group 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Voices of Praise Choir	25 10:00 am Al Anon 7:00 pm AA	26 10:00 am Brown Bag Ministry 2:00 pm Shiloh Choir 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 3:30 pm Family Ministry 5:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Y12SR	28 1:30 pm Staff 7:00 pm Worship & Music	29 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	30 10:30 am Bible Study 6:45 pm Bible Study			
				May 17th Saturday 10-12:00		



Easter Lilies

If you would like to place a lily in the worship spaces to decorate for the Easter season, complete this form and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. Check payable to "St. Philip Lutheran Church" for \$13.00 and note "Easter Lilies" in the memo line. If you would like to donate to the large palms please indicated below.

[To order online click here](#)

The deadline is Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13th

Number of Lilies _____ Total \$ _____

Large Palm Donation _____ Total \$ _____

Given in Honor of _____

Given in Memory of _____

By _____

Phone _____

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



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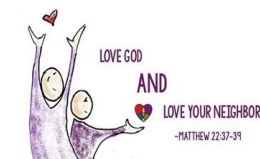
St. Philip Lutheran Church

7304 Falls of Neuse Road

Raleigh, NC 27615

919-846-2992

www.St-Philip.org



WE SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST!



9:00 am — Crossing Contemporary

11:00 am — Traditional style

In Person, Zoom, Facebook, YouTube