

# St. Philip Invitation



*LIVE LIKE THAT - LOVE, FEED, SERVE* DECEMBER 2024

## Season of Advent at St. Philip

We are people of faith who live in a complex world. We hear about tragedy after tragedy in the news. Our own lives can be filled at times with elements of grief, overwhelmedness, or doubt. All of this might lead us to feeling just a bit hopeless. And yet, we are called as people of faith, even in the midst of the complexities of our lives and this world, to hope! Our worship theme for this Advent season will include words intending to restore hope, words that will remind us Jesus comes to us in the middle of the complexities. We'll hear powerful stories from scripture, sing songs of hope, and celebrate the truths of God's love and grace. All as we anticipate the coming of Christ, and the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings - in a manger and in our lives. Join us for worship, online or in person, this Advent season as we ponder rejoicing in a weary world.



## Help St. Philip Love Feed and Serve

Help St. Philip Love, Feed, and Serve right now. As the year 2024 draws to a close thank you for your generosity that has fueled God's mission happening through us. You are invited to continue your faithful generosity and even invited to make an additional offering as the calendar changes to a new year. For some retired folks IRA's require an annual minimum distribution and making that distribution a charitable gift can have an impact on one's taxes (please do consult a financial advisor for proper financial tax advice).

Help St. Philip Love, Feed, and Serve into the future. The church in general and St. Philip particularly wants to be a community that lives God's grace now and for many years to come. You are also invited to consider leaving a legacy of Loving, Feeding, and Serving years from now. You are invited to consider ensuring ongoing ministry at St. Philip by remembering St. Philip in your estate planning.

With a gift in your will, you can:

- Designate a specific dollar amount or overall percentage of your will or living trust to support the St. Philip, the Virginia Synod, the ELCA, or the ministries or organizations you specify.
- Create a legacy, supporting your favorite ministries long after you're gone.
- Make a significant gift without affecting your current lifestyle.
- Gift a gift that is generally not subject to state inheritance or estate taxes.
- Keep control of your assets during your lifetime; and rest assured that you can modify your bequest if your circumstances change.

In as little as one sentence, you can complete your gift. This type of donation in your will or living trust helps ensure that we continue our mission for years to come (AGAIN please consult a financial advisor or an estate attorney for proper and specific advice).

*Legacy*

*A Gift from the Past,  
that helps create a better  
future*

## Solar Powered

SunDay Solar has been engaged to install solar panels on the roof of St. Philip and at the time of the newsletter deadline the project is scheduled to be completed by December 1. Be sure to check out the panel array on the rear roof of the St. Philip building. St. Philip is excited both to care for God's creation in moving to the use of renewable energy and be good stewards of financial resources reducing costs for the use of electricity.

A huge thank you to the St. Philip Solar Team (Pastor David, Dan Radmacher, Rod Dillman, Dave Whetzel) for walking this project through from beginning to end!

## Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 15 at 10:30am, held simultaneously in the sanctuary as well as via Zoom video conference. To access the meeting, go to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) and enter meeting i.d. 860 4019 9836. The passcode is 24019.

There will be an update as to the ministry we share in and through St. Philip. Additionally, we will be voting on the annual spending plan. It is important for all of us to be a part of our church's mission and the resources needed to make it happen. Please make plans to be present, either in person or virtually. Please check your email inbox or your USPS mailbox for important information prior to the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86040199836?pwd=ZVpoN2NyeFFWTDR2WmNWeWR2SVJjdz09>

**December Blood Drive** - Monday, December 16, 12pm- 6pm. Sign ups are open online **now**. You are encouraged to go in and sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make sure you get your preferred appt time. Once you're on the red cross site, look for zip code 24019, or contact Debbie Kanode at 540-589-6865 if you have questions. Pass along information about the drive so we can have as many donors as possible! "It feels good to save a life".



## Ladies Luncheon

**LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** – There will be a Ladies' Christmas Luncheon in the St. Philip Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 11th at 12:30pm!

Come and enjoy a wonderful catered lunch and great fellowship in this festive season. Ladies are invited to bring a wrapped Dollar Store item for a fun gift game and personal hygiene items (ie soap, bodywash, shampoo, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrush) for Melrose Towers residents. If any questions please contact Debbie Kanode, [dwkanode@comcast.net](mailto:dwkanode@comcast.net) or Linda Rhodes, [LRhodes511@aol.com](mailto:LRhodes511@aol.com) with questions. RSVP by Dec. 8.

**FEAST AT PHILIPS** - Thank you to everyone who made this year's Feast at Philips another wonderful event of sharing food and fellowship with our neighbors! It was fantastic having people back in the St. Philip fellowship hall. We are so grateful for all of the cooking, volunteering, prayers, and donations that make this expansive event possible every year.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Scott Buchanan – Member  
Betty Hammond –Member  
Bev Horvath—Member  
Sara Aubitz - Member  
Hannah Chabot - Bev Horvath's granddaughter



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Melendy	December 1
Caroline Wilson	December 5
Genie Brown	December 7
Robin Burke	December 15
Paul Henkel	December 17
Rhonda Wilhelm	December 17
Barbara Hughes	December 19
Tracey Schult	December 22
Christopher Staley	December 26
Doris Waldron	December 28

## Looo Loo Loo Looooooo

*By Judy Burnette*

Joy to the World is one of the most loved Christmas carols, but why? Is it the melody, the way the different parts of the music are put together, the words, or that it reminds us of an event or person? I believe that it might be one of these reasons, a few of them, or some of all of them put together to make it the song we love so much.

In selecting music for Advent and the Christmas season, all the reasons listed above are considered, plus a few more. If an anthem (song) is for the choir to sing, the variety and number of voices we have in choir will be very important. Choosing different styles and genres also make the song we sing more interesting.

One of the most important goals in music selection this time of year is picking favorite carols for the congregation to sing during worship. Just maybe . . . everyone will leave with a song in their heart.

## Council News ---- November 2024

Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary

Council met on Tuesday November 12 in person and via Zoom.

Pastor David has been very busy attending meetings and events and planning many others as well as preparing for and leading worship services. Pastoral care includes hospital visits, homebound visits, home visits, in person visits and telephone calls, text messages, hand written notes and emails.

The Solar Projected is underway and work is planned to be completed by the end of the year.

Property needs have been highlighted and the focus for the coming year will be on creation of a new Property Committee.

Fall clean-up day was attended by a dozen people who helped complete a number of much needed tasks.

Lost & Found Synod Youth Retreat will be November 22-24.

Pastor David and Dan Racmacher updated the church website.

For the coming year, council discussed focusing our ministry efforts on Melrose Towers. More information will be forthcoming.

A proposed spending plan was reviewed and approved and will be shared with the congregation for review at the December 15 Congregational Meeting.

Pastor David has been summoned to be on standby for jury duty during the month of December.

Treasurer's Report Max Holland

October receipts \$18,933

October expenses \$28,253

Elijah's Backpack and roof repairs accounted for a large portion of expenses and these were funded by separate accounts.

### St. Philip Endowment Grants for Ministry

We are blessed. The St. Philip Endowment Fund is an incredible resource for ministry. During the past decade disbursements from this fund have made possible so much ranging from benevolent contributions to partners locally, nationally, and globally, to seed money for new ministries like our digital worship, to capital improvements, and much more.

The St. Philip Endowment Team now through the end of the year is receiving Endowment Grant Applications to consider for disbursements in the year 2025. The Endowment Team is asking that everyone, both ministries originating among the St. Philip community and ministries from our neighbors, to complete an application. Find the application here <https://stphiliplutheran.breezechms.com/form/fa8edb> or upon request from the church office. We are blessed.

### What To Give the One Who Already Has Everything

Gift giving is such a joy! Except when it isn't. If there is someone you know who truly doesn't want a gift for Christmas yet you very much would like to give something. Consider giving a gift in someone's honor.

Check out the [ELCA Good Gifts Catalog](https://goodgifts.elca.org/) (https://goodgifts.elca.org/) and make a difference for someone who very much could use a little help. Every project in every community in the catalog starts with listening. Very intentionally the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog provides opportunities for gifts where they are needed most as identified by people in those communities.

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

St. Philip Lutheran Church  
8115 Williamson Road  
Roanoke, VA 24019

Change Service Requested

**David C. Derrick, Pastor** ([pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:pastordavid@stphiliplutheran.net))  
**Alice H. Lebow, Office Administrator** ([officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:officeadmin@stphiliplutheran.net))  
**Judy Burnette, Director of Music Ministries** ([music@stphiliplutheran.net](mailto:music@stphiliplutheran.net))

**Church Council**

Ellen Mehalic, Council President; Dan Radmacher, Council Vice-President;  
Max Holland Treasurer; Dave Mellon, Financial Secretary; Karen Lowdon, Council Secretary;  
Members: Mary Jo Sahn, Liz Leonard, Bruce Johnson,  
Dedi Spradlin, Marty Frazier, Paul Economy

St. Philip Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
The Reverend Phyllis Milton, Bishop, Virginia Synod

