

St. Philip Lutheran Church

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October 7, 2020

Dear St. Philip Lutheran Church,

We are grateful for YOU! Thank you for being the church in the world and being part of St. Philip Lutheran Church. We cannot be church without you, for the church is not the building, but the people. THANK YOU!

In Acts 8, Philip was called by God and sent to accompany an Ethiopian eunuch who was traveling home after coming to Jerusalem to worship. Philip's response was to get up and go! When he reached the chariot, he found the Ethiopian eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip joined the man and interpreted the scriptures for him and proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. Philip then baptized the man on the side of the road. Philip is a great example of what it means to be the church.

St. Philip Lutheran Church is named after the Apostle Philip. This story of Philip being sent to accompany the Ethiopian eunuch speaks to us now as we listen for God's call for us as a church. As Philip was sent by God, so are we. As Philip sat with the eunuch caring about him, we care for others also. As Philip interpreted the scriptures, so do we. As the eunuch read the scriptures, had them interpreted to him, came to understand and grew in his relationship with God, so do we. As the Ethiopian eunuch asked if he could be baptized there on the side of the road in the water, so we ask similar questions. Together, we continue God's work in our world, listening for God's call, growing in knowledge and faith, building relationships with God and others, serving and responding out of faith. God is calling us to Gather, Serve and Celebrate!

In 2021, St. Philip Lutheran Church will work towards fulfilling its new strategic plan, which was recently approved by church council. We will be guided by our mission statement: At St. Philip Lutheran Church, we intentionally build relationships through Christ to grow and serve. We have created a new ministry structure of Gather, Serve and Celebrate and will use a small group model to aid us in our gathering. We cannot do this without you!

We pray that you will join us during this exciting time! We know these are uncertain times and you may not be comfortable gathering in person or your finances may be uncertain. We invite you to join us on this journey in the ways you are most comfortable, virtually or in person. We ask that you consider financially supporting St. Philip Lutheran Church and making a statement of intent for 2021. You may not be able to give as much as you once gave or you may be blessed and have been saving money during this pandemic and are able to give or increase your giving. Remember, your giving (tithe) is a spiritual practice and we encourage you to pray about it, talk to God about your giving to St. Philip Lutheran Church.

We understand there are many places for you to support and give to. We are grateful for your support and financial contributions to St. Philip Lutheran Church. We do ask that everyone, no matter the dollar amount, make a statement of intent. This helps us as a church to plan for the coming year and make our budget.

As you consider your financial contribution for 2021, we invite you to read the 2020 Stewardship Appeal brochure to learn more about the strategic plan and what will be happening at St. Philip this next year. It is exciting! When you give an offering to St. Philip Lutheran Church, you are helping your church to fulfill its mission! Think of the impact you are making on all of the people who are touched by St. Philip Lutheran Church: our children, youth and adults, our neighbors, the community of Sheridan, our country and people around the world!

Your generosity makes an enormous impact! Thank you for your support of the ministry of St. Philip Lutheran Church.

We are asking everyone at St. Philip Lutheran Church to fill out a statement of intent card. You can turn in your statement of intent card by mailing it or bringing it to the church office. You are also able to submit a statement of intent on our website at www.stphilip-co.org/stewardship.

Finally, have you heard you can give to St. Philip through automatic giving? The easiest way to give is by setting up your giving to be done automatically. This is as simple and easy as having auto pay for your mortgage, bills or credit cards. Some like the spiritual practice of physically giving in the offering plate. Others, like me, enjoy the simplicity of setting up the automatic giving and knowing you are supporting your church regularly without having to remember cash or a check book. If you have any questions or would like to set up automatic giving, please contact the church office at 303-979-4491.

Again, thank you for your investment in St. Philip Lutheran Church and the ministry God has called us to as a church and as the people.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reverend Brad Doty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Brad Doty
Senior Pastor