

Join in on the Excitement: Get Involved and Respond

We are excited for the future of St. Philip and what will be happening this next year! 2021 will be a great year, even as the pandemic continues, for we plan to expand our ministries as we bring on our new staff members, start in-person and virtual Small Group Ministries and work to fulfill our mission of intentionally building relationships through Christ to grow and serve. It may be a challenge to reach out to those in our neighborhood and the areas around us, but we know God will lead us and guide us along the way.

As we **GATHER** together for learning, community building and support, we invite you to reach out to friends, family and neighbors to join you or your small group. Gathering together will lead us to **SERVE** as we reach out to support and care for one another, those around us, and those in need around the world. Our Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry will continue to provide for those in Sheridan, our youth are planning to go to Pine Ridge, SD in July 2020, for their mission trip and we are planning on starting a new ministry at St. Philip, working with Love INC to run their Diaper Ministry. As we gather and are led to serve, we then come together to **CELEBRATE**. We celebrate in the form of worship and other events, to give thanks and praise to God for all that God has done, continues to do and has blessed us with.

We pray that you will join us during this exciting time! We invite you to financially support St. Philip Lutheran Church and make a statement of intent for 2021. You can do so by filling out a statement of intent card and bring it or mail it to St. Philip. You can also submit a statement of intent on our website at www.stphilip-co.org/stewardship.



St. Philip Lutheran Church

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2020 Stewardship Appeal

At St. Philip Lutheran Church, we intentionally build relationships through Christ to grow and serve.

Exciting Time for St. Philip: New Sr. Pastor—New Strategic Plan

This is an exciting time for St. Philip Lutheran Church! There have been many changes at St. Philip over the past two years which have helped to lay a new foundation and prepare us for the future of our church. Pastor Brad Doty was called as the Sr. Pastor of St. Philip on June 14th and installed on August 8th. In addition, St. Philip now has a new Strategic Plan. As a church, we are ready and excited about the future of St. Philip. God is with us and God is leading this church into the future!



The way we do church and be the church has changed drastically during this pandemic of COVID-19. Ministry has not stopped, it has just been different. There were ministries that continued to meet and moved to a virtual format. There were also new ministries that started during this time - to care for our community and to gather our community. Two ministries that started in the Spring were a prayer group, which continues to meet, and the zip code ministry. Pastor Brad also hosted Sunday Night Game Nights where many people joined to play Bingo on Zoom! This time has allowed us to reflect and try new things. As a church, we are now gathering virtually and in person. This time has given us the opportunity to do things we have talked about but thought would be years down the road; for instance, livestreaming and virtual ministries. These new opportunities have been life giving!

Online worship was a blessing while we could not gather together. We will continue to livestream our services for those who prefer to worship online or can't make it to worship. Once we could start worshiping outdoors, safely, we began worshiping in the courtyard. Worshipers were invited to spatially distance themselves in the courtyard for worship or watch from their vehicles in the parking lot and listen to the service on the radio. It has been wonderful seeing people in person and worshiping together.



Get Excited: Looking Forward to Great Things

There are many uncertainties about the year 2021, but there is one thing we are certain of: God will continue to work through St. Philip Lutheran Church! God will lead and guide us in working towards our mission of intentionally building relationships through Christ to grow and serve.

St. Philip Lutheran Church is a congregation that is being called to **Gather, Serve and Celebrate!** We gather to build and grow our relationship with God, those we know and those we don't know. When we **gather** together, we care for one another, support one another, learn together, learn from one another and build community. When we **serve**, we look at the needs of others: members of St. Philip, visitors, our neighbors around us, near and far, the world, and God's creation. We come together to **celebrate**, worshiping God to give thanks and praise to God. Celebrations are often filled with much joy, music, food and fellowship.

One of the first steps we will be taking to work towards our mission is filling our staff. There are three staff positions we will be filling for the sake of our mission: A full time Deacon, a full time Coordinator of Children, Youth and Family Ministry and a part-time Coordinator of Technology. What is a deacon? A deacon is an ordained position in the church and is a Minister of **Word and Service**. A pastor is an ordained position in the church and is a Minister of **Word and Sacrament**. The deacon will focus on the area of Serve, while also working with other ministry areas.

Gather, Serve and Celebrate

Our new mission leads us to a new ministry structure: Gather, Serve and Celebrate. More information on what this looks like can be found in our Strategic Planning documents, which can be found on our website: www.stphilip-co.org/strategic-plan. We are excited to be starting small group ministry to implement this structure, where our goal is for seventy percent of our congregation to be in a small group. Small groups will be formed out of Bible study groups, hobby groups, interest groups, book clubs, age groups, encouragement groups, and more. This helps us to continue to see and understand that the church isn't just a place to come to, it is a thing to be part of; church isn't a building, it's the people! Let us be the church!