Making Big Things Happen 2017!

Pray Like it All Depends on God...because it does!
Work Like it All Depends on You....because it does!
We need Folks to Step into Significant Areas to shape Projects and Programs!

**Strategic Initiatives Workshops 2017**
*To Help The Mission of God Grow Thru St. Philip!*

Sign Up at Strategic Initiatives Group (SIG) Table in Family Life Center with your interest in one or more areas! Someone from the SIG will call you and we’ll be setting up convenient workshop times!
GET HOPE IN 2017 BY GIVING HOPE IN 2017

A good way to generate hope in your life is to get out there and help somebody in some specific way. Interestingly, when you give yourself away you get something back that is huge: identity and purpose. This isn’t necessarily self-evident or intuitive for us. We tend to think that the things that will make us more happy in life will be things that bring self-improvement or self-development rather than things that are self-giving.

Pastor Doug Hill writes that in our culture that thrives on materialism, consumerism and narcissism the church can have a tendency to unwittingly provide programs in congregational life that feed into these self-centered patterns (Pastor as Cultural Architect: The Role of the Jesus Community within a Toxic Society, Trinity Seminary Review, Fall 2016). We promote things to do to build ourselves up (e.g. spiritual practices of bible study, prayer, worship) a lot that can in fact simply be another expression of the materialism, consumerism and narcissism we want to reject.

This all points to the crazy dynamic that Jesus brings: the more you lose yourself the more you find yourself (check out Matthew 10:39). We all want hope in our life, but the ironic thing is that we don’t get it by trying to get it, we get it by giving it away. And the way you give hope away is by helping somebody out. And that can happen on some simple and profound levels: a conversation around coffee, a personal story in a small group, volunteering to help somebody with physical and social needs.

In 2017, St. Philip congregation can be the catalyst and community for you to find hope by not looking for it. To get hope by giving hope.

**Conversation**: when you come to worship, make it a point to stick around and come to Sunday Gathering and have a conversation with somebody you don’t know.

**Small Group**: check out the two Life Groups that focus on discipleship (and, as I write this a new Life Group focusing on grief support is under development) and join in and find that you can share stories of your life of faith and doubt.

**Volunteer**: we make a big deal at St. Philip encouraging people to volunteer both in the community and in the congregation. Put in a few hours volunteering somewhere and somehow where you feel good about it.

Hopeful with you,

Pastor Johan
I wanted to say “Hello” to all St. Philip parishioners, “thanking you” for allowing me to be your President next year (2017).

Your church leadership and teams work hard at trying to make St. Philip a church where all feel welcome and fills your spiritual needs. I can tell you, we will try to continue to do so.

We aren’t able to do it without your support, financially and stepping up and serving on one of our teams, with your thoughts and ideas, I know there are a lot of them out there, let’s use them.

YOU are the church, support it, make it happen.

Don Martin
President
WANT TO KNOW THE STORY OF GOD AND HOW YOUR STORY IS PART OF GOD’S STORY?

Coming in January: CORE STORIES OF THE BIBLE

*Wednesdays, January 4-Feb. 22, 11:30-1pm.*

*Brown Bag lunch welcome!*

Video Teaching by Scholars, Group Discussion with classmates, Pastor Bergh Facilitator.

Participant Book required (it’s excellent!), $14 each. Sign up Today at School of Discipleship (SD) Table in Family Life Center. Payment for book: check or cash, to office or to cash box on SD Table.

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SPECIAL SEMINAR COMING YOUR WAY!

“Supporting Ministries That Are Important To You” Seminar and Brunch 2017

*Sunday, January 8, 2017, 11:15am, Family Life Center*

-What organizations and missions do you care about that you would like to support now and after you die? What can you do now to position yourself to be able to do all of that?

-Program Presenter: The Rev. Ana Lugo, Regional Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation

-Seminar is free! Sign Up today at the Information Table in the Family Life Center.

Seminar Sponsored by the St. Philip Endowment Team with event funding support from Jackson Hewitt Tax Service (Sandra Guckenberger, General Manager). For more information contact Sandra Guckenberger, St. Philip Endowment Team Leader, 352-455-1075.
SPECIAL ST. PHILIP
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 8, 2017
10:45am
SPLC Sanctuary
Agenda: Budget Deficit Discussion

5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK

After Service & Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2017
A sign-up sheet will be in the Family Life Center Jan 15th
If any questions, please contact Geri Wolter at 352-735-5721

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT LIFE GROUP

The Grief and Loss Support Life Group will begin on Friday January 6, 2017 at 12:30Pm.
They will meet every Friday for six consecutive weeks.
This group offers comfort and support for any individual that has a suffered a loss and is open to members of the congregation as well as individuals with the community.
If interested in attending, please contact Linda Williams through the church office.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: HELPING ST. PHILIP HELP THOSE IN CRISIS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

St. Philip has an on-going fund called The Good Samaritan Fund for the purpose of crisis assistance (rent, food, transportation, utilities, etc.) for community members that contact us in crisis. Our congregation’s Pastor manages the distributions and source for the funds are two-fold 1) $50 from regular SPLC budget 2) specific/special donations from members and friends of St. Philip. You can make a contribution any time with checks payable to “St. Philip Lutheran Church” with memo “Good Samaritan Fund.” Thank you!
The Watoto Children’s Choir is a unique ‘reaching out’ tool. Reach people in your organisation, community or church. Address issues of global significance and fuel your missions or outreach programs to care for the orphan and widow.

Each child in the Watoto Children’s Choir has suffered the loss of one or both parents and now lives in a Watoto village. The experience of travelling on a choir helps the children to develop confidence and boldness, as well as broadening their worldview.

Accompanied by a team of adults, the choir presents Watoto’s vision and mission by sharing personal stories, music and dance. While on the road, the children act as advocates for the millions of other African children who have experienced the same heartbreaking pain and suffering as them.

WATOTO CHOIR “OH WHAT LOVE”

We are excited to announce St Philip Lutheran Church is hosting Watoto on tour “OH, What Love”.

Date of the Concert: January 21, 2017
Time of Concert: 6:00pm
Place: St Philip Lutheran Church Family Life Center
There will be merchandise for sale by the Watoto Child Care Ministries following the concert

We will be collecting a love offering to help those in need.

The Concert is free and open to the public.
THANK YOU

I would like to thank our St. Philip's family for their cards and calls. We as a family are very touched. At a time like this there is nothing as comforting as a church family. Your prayers and good wishes helped us through this very difficult situation.

Our children have now stated that I cannot stay at home and mop for the next few months. They are now taking me to Toronto to have Christmas with our youngest daughter and family after which I am to go to our home in Florida for a while and be with our many wonderful friends to help me along my future way. With you and Gods help we will move forward. Thanks to all. Hope to see you in January.

Love to all. Gordon (Marie) and family.

THE CHURCH OFFICE STAFF would like to thank the congregation of St. Philip Lutheran Church for the Christmas Bonuses. We appreciate your generosity. We hope you had a Blessed Christmas. Thank you again.

NEW AED AND CPR ASSIST UNITS PURCHASED AND INSTALLED! THANK YOU!

Using 1) St. Philip Thrivent Choice Dollars (with special dedicated funds in memory of George Killian) 2) the St. Philip Memorial Fund (in memory of Doug Yerkes) 3) a “Cakeless” Bake Sale produced by St. Philip member Pat Habbach and friends and 4) specific donations to the AED project, we have been able to install a new Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in the Parish Hall as well as three new CPR Assist units (in Parish Hall, in Sanctuary Narthex, in Family Life Center). Thank you to all involved! If you are a Thrivent Financial member, please continue to consider St. Philip Lutheran Church as the designated recipient of your account’s Thrivent Choice Dollars and all are always invited to make contributions to the St. Philip Memorial Fund. Thanks!
STEWARDSHIP NUGGETS

Stewardship is a spiritual issue not a financial issue. The journey to being a good steward has many steps. For some people this starts with reading, reflection and prayer. In the next few months there are twelve devotions for this purpose.

The inspiration for these writings is taken from Stepping Stones of a Steward by Ron Vallet (Eerdmans Publishing; Grand Rapids, MI; © 1989)

Devotion 1
Realizing How Much God Loves You
Luke 15:11-32

How do you see God’s love in your daily life? Jesus’ parable of the prodigal is an example of the deep and profound love between a father and his son (and, God with God’s people). This parable could also be named the parable of the prodigal father. It is the father who is a central character. The selfish and jealous behavior of the two sons is a sharp contrast to the loving behavior of the father. Similarly, God’s most basic character is love.

Has there been a time in your life when you wanted to go off to a far country? In our own country, it was not unusual for younger sons to respond to the challenge, “Go west, young man.” These ventures were often undertaken because there was sense of love and security at home, and a loving relationship with God. The life of Jesus was a venture to live in a “new creation”, a “new age”. It was difficult for the disciples to leave their settings and follow Jesus. It was even more difficult to grasp the significance of Jesus’ teachings. Yet as their experiences evolved there were revelations that showed God’s love and presence in everyday life.

In reflecting on the breadth of God’s love, what steps might you take in your life to enhance your realization of God’s love?

Let us pray: Lord God, you are a loving Creator and Provider. Help us to see your presence in our daily life, in the gift of life, in the gift of your Son Jesus Christ and in the Body of Christ. Give us the vision to look beyond our personal desires and needs. Give us the sensitivity to hear your word above our daily activity. Open our eyes too, to the times when we are like the older son, looking for the best robe and the fatted calf, only wanting for ourselves. May the Holy Spirit give us guidance to see your loving presence and will in our life. Amen.
The Mission Basket offering in December was $283.00

These gifts support the following ministries:
Lutheran Counseling Services / Agape Ministries / SPLC Triangle Kids / Lake Cares food bank
Gamboya Union Church—Debbie Ward, Missionary
Offerings will be received again January 8, 2017

"HELPING HANDS" ACTIVITIES

**Items needed:** Toothbrushes, Combs, Small Memo Books, Pens/Pencils. [Supplies can be purchased at Walmart and Dollar Tree].

**Collecting:** Cancelled Stamps with postmark are distributed to Veterans for one of their projects. Campbell Soup Labels and Box Tops for Education are given to Triangle Elementary.

**Projects:** Quilts for FL Lutheran Services, Dresses/Quilts for adults & babies in Panama
Prayer Shawls are available if you know anyone who would like one.
Helping Hands subsidizes their costs selling casserole covers, placemats, dishtowels.
We appreciate your donations of items needed: cards yarn, pillowcases for dresses, material and numerous other items that we reuse in different projects.

Questions – Pat Habbach (352-729-2708)
You are invited to join us on Tuesday mornings in the Parish Hall at 9:00am.
We end the day with a brown bag lunch at 11:30am. We take turns at bringing dessert.
# Birthdays and Anniversaries

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn Krekling</td>
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<td>Georgia Luoma</td>
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<td>Mary Gerber</td>
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<td>Lorraine Raymond</td>
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<td>Charlotte Keller</td>
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<td>Dorothy Koster</td>
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<td>Collin Arnold</td>
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<td>Lloyd &amp; Lois Oelke</td>
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<td>Dr. Johan &amp; Janet Bergh</td>
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<td>Arnold &amp; Charlotte Keller</td>
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MONTH 2017 SERVING SCHEDULE

JANUARY

ASSISTING MINISTER

1st    Skip Thorson
8th    Dave Skipp
15th   Sherry Mohr
22nd   Jake Conn
29th   Cindy Beckman

GREETERS

1st    Evelyn Garcia, Audrey Gramer
8th    Jake & Pat Conn
15th   Karl & Doris Droge
22nd   Harvey & Colleen Felske
29th   Elaine Nehrbass, Jan Gorsuch

WELCOME TABLE

1st    Deb Yerkes, Lois Hanson
8th    DeWayne & Linda Rublee
15th   Don & Charlie Martin
22nd   Ed & Judy Hoffmeyer
29th   Harold & Andrea Hede

ALTAR GUILD

Geri Wolter

USHERS

1st    Mike & Linda Williams
       Randy Lindgren, Jan Rudolph
8th    Harold Hede, Art Spurling
       Tom & Gail Heneghan
15th   Doug Dorrell, Randy Lindgren
       Larry & Lois Sullivan
22nd   Glenn Krekling, Brenda Little
       Sandra Guckenberger, Syd Chase
29th   Jan Rudolph, Roger Bower
       Bob & Cindy Beckman

COMMUNION MINISTERS

1st    Lois Hanson, Harold Seibel
8th    Pat Habbach
       Sandra Guckenberger
15th   Don & Charlie Martin
22nd   Gary Gregory, Pat Habbach
29th   Sherry Mohr, Skip Thorson
Mission
"Embracing all, Nurturing disciples, and Bringing Christ to the community"

Values
Relationships—Worship—Stewardship—Leadership—Education—Outreach

Saint Philip Lutheran Church
1050 Boyd Drive
Mount Dora, FL 32757
(352) 383-5402
E-mail: office@stphiliplc.com * Website: http://www.stphiliplc.com

A congregation of the Florida Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Johan A.A. Bergh
Worship/Music Director: Kevin Anderson
Custodian: Don Sansone

Office Manager: Janice Storey
Admin Assistant: Cathy Mihal

2017 Congregation Council
President: Don Martin
President Elect: Richard Guckenberger
Secretary:
Treasurer: Sandra Guckenberger
Congregational Council: Pat Habbach, Pat Kendall, Sherry Mohr, Cheryl Tiefert, Beth Adams, Janet Fisher, Marcia Funk, Joann Maynard

2017 Spiritual Life Ministry Team: (Elders) Linda Rublee, Dave Skipp, Deb Yerkes
Visitation Ministry Coordinators:
Pat Kendall—Hospital, Glenn Krekling—Long Term Care
For Current Roster: contact the Church Office