

LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

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DATES OF NOTE:

June 7 - Good Food Market
 June 11 - BBQ picnic
 June 15 - 50+ planning lunch
 June 18 - Father's Day

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS:

Wednesday - Friday: 9 - 12



HOLIDAYS:

Pastor Tuula
 May 29 - June 8



From Pastor Tuula

"I am haunted by waters." These are the last words of Norman Maclean's novel *A River Runs Through It*. Human imagination is filled with images of water, and rightly so. Our bodies are made up of water. If we fail to drink, or if we are prevented from drinking, we die. Drought means the possibility of death for both land and humans - too little rainfall and life as we know is threatened. Many of our parishioners can't wait for summer months to be able to spend time at their cottages by northern lakes.

Water is also dangerous, chaotic, and devastating. In the ancient world, the primeval disorder took shape in the form of a watery chaos or monsters from the deep. Enough rain can lead to the land's fertility, but too much water will drown the crops. Hurricanes and tsunamis remind us that water can also be an agent of death. Generations come and go, and the water remains.

When I was growing up, my family spent summers at our lake house, built by my father and grandfather. I remember getting up early and making my way down to the shore for a morning swim. At dawn, the lake's surface shimmered like glass, and I still remember how I felt every stroke through the water, and how it made me feel more connected to myself. As the water surrounded me, all the voices in my mind would fade, and God would have room to speak.

I live close to Lake Ontario, a big body of water. Whenever I am down at the water's edge during peak hours in the summer, I am usually sharing the lake with many others. The water is there, but it is much harder to hear the waves above the human noise. In the

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beginning, scripture says, there were waters, and I believe that when our world has breathed its last the waters will still be there.

When I think of my baptism, I hear the voice that speaks out of the waters - the voice that proclaims to a world of conflict that we are all "very good" and claims us all as "beloved." The Spirit moves in and out of our busy lives, and there are times when she beckons us to a different order, to a new creation. Whenever I reach for the water, whether in baptismal font or lake, I find myself trying to connect to the life giving and mysterious power that lives in its depths.

I hope you get to connect with water this summer. May it help you remember your baptism and rejoice in your goodness and belovedness.

*See you in church,
Pastor Tuula*

From Janelle Lightbourne, Intern



At the beginning of May, I co-hosted a Young Adult Retreat in the beautiful Niagara region at Cave Springs Camp. The weekend was a time of community building, connection, and rest for young adults from the Eastern Synod. Truly beautiful! We talked about our inherent value as children of God and how we all need to be rooted in this truth in a busy world. Take a look at the photos. You will see a few familiar faces from St. Philip's!

*Peace to you, Janelle Lightbourne, Pastoral Intern
519.852.6772
sja.lightbourne@gmail.com*

Council Corner

St Philip's Council held a productive virtual meeting on **May 25**. As reported in April, we are alternating between in-person and virtual meetings and between a business agenda one month and more in-depth discussions another.

On May 18, a few members met with six members of St. Ansgar Lutheran Church which is closing at the end of June. We shared with them a bit about St. Philip's our Mission and Vision and some of the many initiatives in which we are involved. Some members of St. Ansgar's are looking for a new home church and we wanted them to know we would welcome them with open arms.

Pastor Tuula continues to be very busy. She reported that we will welcome 5 new members on May 28, and she is meeting with others who want to join us. We sometimes take for granted all the behind the scenes work that she does to help the church run smoothly. Pastor **asked for help** in **TWO** of these tasks. One is taking out the garbage on Thursdays and the other is helping with the "Lemonade Hour" being held after Church during the summer months. Please connect with her if you can help, even on a part-time basis.

The Worship and Music committee reported that they had completed the annual performance review of the Music Director and thanked all members who participated in providing feedback. There was much positive feedback given and some suggestions for things that could be tried. Chris has provided wonderful musical direction for both the choir and congregation, so it was with sadness we received his letter of resignation effective immediately. We are happy for him as his career as a piano technician has grown into a managerial role and that he needs more time to pursue his goals. We have arranged music coverage for the summer as the Worship and Music committee begin the search for a new Music Director.

Our refugee family has had their application approved in principle and an interview scheduled.

However, we have no indication of how long the approval process may take so are waiting to hear when they may arrive.

Much work has been done on our Good Food Market and container garden which will be held at 44 Willowridge this summer. A grant was received in connection with some upgrades to our Neighbourhood Table project. We will be developing a Health and Safety policy to meet the requirements of the grant we received to hire a summer worker.

There was much discussion on our upcoming Stewardship Initiative. We spent time looking at what the purpose of this initiative might be and ways to achieve the expected outcomes. Some things we talked about were reconnecting, looking for volunteers and new members, keeping the church open, planning for the future. Time, effort, and knowledge are equally valued and appreciated. Obviously financial support for our church is important and will be part of the initiative. Reconnecting and focusing on our needs in 2023 were a theme we kept coming back to. In the past, Agape Meals were a great way of bringing members together to talk about St. Philip's and planning for its future. We reviewed past reports and felt that there was value in bringing members together to reconnect and help all feel a sense of belonging in the congregation. We will continue to use the Agape Meals approach and launch it with a dinner in September at the church.

We also want to acknowledge and thank all of you who contribute so much of your time, skills, and knowledge in providing programs, participating in worship, looking after the property and all the behind the scenes work that happens that sometimes is so necessary but goes unnoticed. See you all at the BBQ on **June 11** to start the summer season!

God bless,
 Marcia Powers-Dunlop, Vice Council Chair
marcia-powers-dunlop@rogers.com

Victory Garden Clean-up



On **Saturday, May 27** volunteers gathered to clean up our Victory Garden. The soil was tilled and weeded before planting flowers and other beautiful plants. Come check it out for yourself!

Thank you to all of the volunteers and to the future watering crew!



Good Food Market

FRESH FOOD AT LOW PRICES

GOOD FOOD MARKET AT 44 WILLOW RIDGE

fresh produce, grocery gift card raffles, food samples and kid's activities outdoors behind the building or community space weather depending

WEDNESDAYS
FROM 3-6PM
STARTING
JUNE 7TH

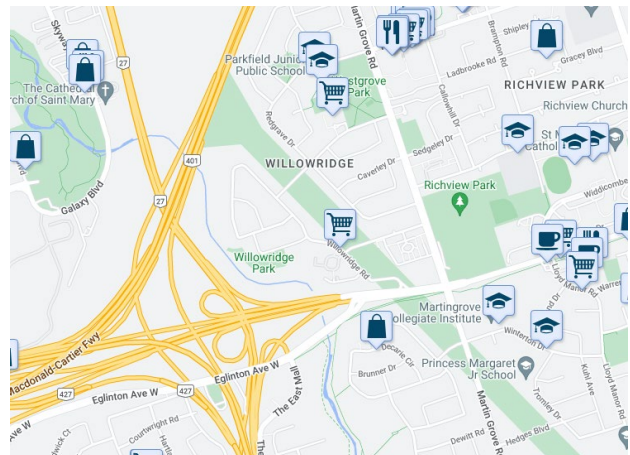


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Please join us on Wednesdays at our new location: **44 Willowridge Rd.** You will meet our new Community Outreach Coordinator, Jenelle Rock, and meet residents of this neighbourhood.

Volunteer to help out by contacting Jenelle at email: etobicokegoodfoodmarket@gmail.com or by phone 647.523.0383.



Resignation

It is with regret that we announce that **Chris Ritcey-Conrad** will be ending his time as the Director of Music Ministry at St. Philip's this summer. We are so thankful for the 3+ years that Chris has been leading this important ministry. He has capably led weekly worship, conducted our adult choir, introduced cantors and guest musicians in worship services and funerals, and supported our house band in leading worship music once a month. During COVID-19 lockdown, Chris rose to the challenge of helping to create online weekly services through various musical collaborations, including an online choir with singers from across Canada and the USA.



Chris has recently taken on a new and demanding role as GM at Paul Hahn & Co. We are thrilled for Chris and understand that he must now focus on this challenging role.

Chris' last Sunday as Director of Music Ministry is Sunday, June 25. Cecilia Nguyen Tran will be filling in for the months of July and August.

Thank you, Chris, for blessing us with your many talents! We pray God's rich blessings on you now and in the future.

Chris's letter of resignation is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like a copy of the letter, please contact the church office.

Sarah Pascoe

Finance Update

As spring draws to a close and we move towards summer please find below a financial update for the first four months of the year (January to April 2023).



With the reopening of the church for worship our expenses have once again started to track to normal however, unfortunately donations have not increased at the same rate!

As a result, at the end of April, we are currently running a deficit just over \$8,000 which is approximately \$14,000 further in the red than this time last year.

Some year-to-date financial numbers:

	2022	2021
Income	\$73,642	\$83,373
Expense	\$81,918	\$75,529
Net Income (Loss)	(\$8,276)	\$5,942
Benevolence	\$8,342	\$7,830

As we move to a slower summer season please consider continuing to make your weekly donation.

Find the how-to details here:
stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/

Gary Wuschnakowski

50+

It has been so enjoyable getting back in person with our 50+ group this year! We have had a variety of monthly events with yummy luncheons, interesting speakers, joyous entertainment, and great outings!

On **Thursday, May 18** the group met at the church to eat lunch in the warmth of the Fellowship Hall before heading out to tour the conservatory at Centennial Park. A fun time was had by all.

Please note we are having our final pizza and planning luncheon on **Thursday, June 15 @ 12:30 pm**. We would really appreciate your help as we evaluate the past and plan for the new year. Please RSVP by using the sign-up sheet in the narthex or by contacting the church office by phone or email. If you cannot make it, please email your suggestions for outings, speakers, and entertainment to Doris Pascoe: dorispascoe@gmail.com or Donna Schwantes: donna_schwantes@rogers.com.

Have a blessed summer!
Donna Schwantes and Doris Pascoe



Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm (June only)

Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm (June only)

Good Food Market: Wednesdays @ 3:00 pm

Cover Girls: Wednesdays @ 10 am

LAVS: Friday, June 9 @ 6:00 pm

Church BBQ Picnic: June 11

50+: Thursday, June 15 @ 12:30 pm

Zumba and Girl Guides resume in September – July, August off

Outdoor Worship will occur on the last Sunday of June, July, and August.



Church office hours have changed for the summer months.

June, July, August

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

50+ Planning Lunch



When: Thursday, June 15 @ 12:30 pm

Lunch: Pizza

Program: Planning for 2023 - 2024

Register: By using the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the church office at 416.622.5577. This is for pizza order purposes.

Anniversaries



40 years: Sam & Judy Marcuson on July 18

50 years: Garfield & Angela Shaw on July 21

Congratulations

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Pastor Tuula Van Gaasbeek
Phone: 416.859.5588
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Chris Ritcey-Conrad, Music Director
Phone: 416.220.7300
pnoSHOPPE@gmail.com

Mark Kieswetter, Music Director
Emeritus

Margaret Isaacs, Office Administrator
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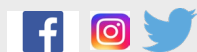
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Friend' us [on Facebook](#)

Instagram: [@stphilipslutheran](#)

Twitter: [@SPLOnline](#)



Happy Father's Day



We celebrate "fathers" on **Sunday, June 18.**

Show your appreciation for the role models in your life. Make a phone call, write a letter, send a gift, or send flowers.

Next...

Please submit articles and high-res photos (minimum 2 MB) for the September issue of LIFE by **August 28 ...** send good news to Margaret Isaacs: stphilip@bellnet.ca

About St. Philip's - Our Vision

Freed by the grace of Christ, we seek to connect with God, neighbour, and self.

Vision Statement: We are a diverse and inclusive Lutheran faith community freed by the grace of Christ to find God and self as we connect with our neighbours.

We practise hospitality of open hearts and open arms. We unite with partners to make a difference in our neighbourhood. We nurture community of Christ.

Values Supporting the Vision: Our Lutheran heritage of grace; our call to pray, worship, and learn as we grow in our Christian faith; our needs to gather and belong in Christian community; the call to love our neighbours as Christ loves us; the acceptance of all people as children of God; the opportunities to meet God everywhere.