

# LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S



St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

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### DATES OF NOTE:

- March 1** - World Day of Prayer
- March 3** - Lunch and Learn
- March 6, 13, 20** Soup Supper with Holden Evening Prayer
- March 28** Soup Supper w Maundy Thursday Service
- March 29** - Good Friday Service / Egg Decorating w/Lunch

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 9 - 12

### HOLIDAYS:

Pastor Tuula will be away from  
**March 5 - 19**

Please contact Rev. Susan Climo  
for any pastoral care @  
416.573.5372



## From Pastor Tuula

When my children were young, Lent was intense around our house, primarily because I was working a lot and we all spent lots of time at church. To try to keep things straight I used to review the plans of each day over and over with anyone who would listen. During Holy Week this was especially important.

I was well into Easter Sunday, when my young daughter interrupted me. "Isn't Friday the day Jesus died on the cross? Why is that day called Good Friday?" "Yes," I said, moving into the topic of Easter outfits. She continued: "I don't think we should call it Good Friday!"

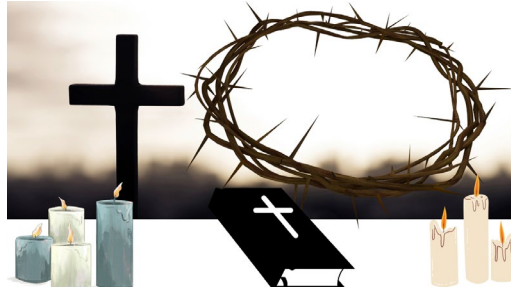
I tried to rack my brain for any recollection of why we call it Good Friday, recognizing that my daughter had a valid point. Why is such a bad day called good?

Later I did some research and found that we call it Good Friday likely because of the development of the English language over time. In Germany they call it *Karfreitag*, Mourning Friday, which seems to make more sense. In Finland, it is *Pitkaperjantai*, Long Friday. There was a time in the history of the English language when "good" meant "holy", which would make it "Holy Friday". Some think it was originally referred to as "God's Friday" and, over time someone added another "o". And then there are those who believe it is not an etymological issue at all but more likely a theological statement: great good came to be from the tragedy of that Friday.

That is what I told my daughter. I said that as Christians we believe Jesus demonstrated the ultimate love by showing us that some things are worth dying for.

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To recognize that gift, we call the day Good Friday. She had a thoughtful response: “Well I guess I can see why they might call it Good Friday. But I think it’s sad. Do you think it is okay if I call it *Pretty Good Friday?*” I told her that would be perfectly fine.



I hope this year you take time to attend Holy Week services and find moments of forgiveness, grace and hope during Holy Week, and especially on *Pretty Good Friday*.

*See you in church!*  
*Pastor Tuula*

## Lent and Easter Schedule

<b>LENT I</b>	<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18</b>
<b>LENT II</b>	<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25</b>
<b>LENT III</b>	<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 3</b>
<b>LENT IV</b>	<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 10</b>
<b>LENT V</b>	<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 17</b>
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 24</b>
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 28: SOUP SUPPER @ 6PM WITH WORSHIP @ 7PM</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 29 WORSHIP @ 11AM WITH LIGHT LUNCH AND EGG DECORATING @ 12PM</b>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>MARCH 31 WORSHIP @ 10AM</b>

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**SOUP SUPPERS: WEDNESDAY EVENINGS @ 6PM FOLLOWED BY**

**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER @ 7PM**

**FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 20**

## Finance Update

The following is an excerpt from the Finance and Audit Committee of the 2023 Annual Report:

This, the first-year post pandemic, has seen an increase in general giving over the previous year of just over \$32,500 or roughly 14% with expenses increasing by \$29,389 or 12% over 2022. While general giving was \$6,971 shy of covering 2023 expenses, St. Philip's realized a surplus of \$10,082 as a result of rental and investment income (\$5,130 and \$11,923 respectively). Realizing this surplus is a remarkable achievement and is as a direct result of increased giving and fundraising activities of our congregation in the last quarter of the year.

As we move into 2024, council has approved an increase in our budget of approximately \$31,000 over 2023 as a result of mandated increases in salaries and benefits of \$13,000 and an increase in our Building & Property budget of \$20,730 to reflect increases in property maintenance, insurance and utility costs.

The total budget for 2024 has been set at \$295,000 and has been balanced by forecasting total revenue that is \$15,000 more than actual revenue realized in 2023 of \$280,000 this includes a 5% increase in member donations over 2023 as well as projected income of \$13,000 from investments and \$6,000 from rentals. The 2023 Benevolence Commitment to ELCIC has remained unchanged from 2023 levels of \$25,000.

In summary, while our 2023 financial position has improved slightly over 2022, to ensure that St. Philip's stays on this path in 2024 it will be necessary to stay within budgeted expenditures, see an increase of 5% in congregational donations and continue to realize investment gains while maximizing revenue from renting our building.

The full 2023 Annual report can be found online <http://www.stphilipstoronto.com/annual-reports> and copies are available for pickup in the narthex.

*Gary Wuschnakowski*

## Music Notes

I think our music is going quite well at St. Philip's these days. We had a wonderful response at the Christmas season - at times there were 18 and 19 people in the choir. I hope they found it fulfilling, enjoyed the music, and will come back for the Easter season!

I am again including a call for volunteers for the next very important services in the church, which of course are Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

On Palm Sunday, we will be singing an anthem with the participation of the bell choir, and an anthem on Easter morning with Katie Clark, solo trumpet player. We are very much looking forward to these performances.

If you would like to join for some or all, please come to choir practice, or let me know so that I can give or send you a scan and recording of the music we are using. The 'more the merrier' - with more people we can sing 'bigger' music, the blend is wonderful, and the impact can be considerable. We are also looking forward to the post-Easter season and have chosen some other favourite pieces which I hope you will also like.



**Choir Practice:  
Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm**

I remain very encouraged by the support we receive for the music program and the kindness and appreciation of church members which is always inspiring and helpful.

*Karen Quinton*

## Interfaith Sunday



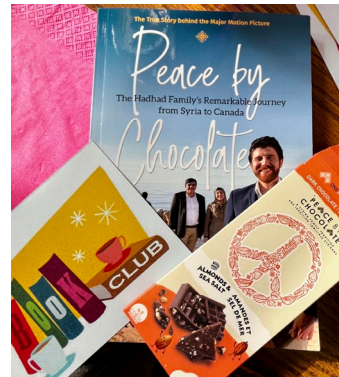
On **Sunday, February 4** we celebrated Interfaith Harmony with Mr. Sukhjit Singh, Imam Imtiaz Ahmed, Barbara Boraks (interfaith Champion 2024), Paul McKenna, and Chander Khanna.



## SPLC Book Club



We met on **February 14** to discuss the latest book over some bubbly and the actual chocolate created by the refugees named in the book.



We will meet **Wednesday, March 13 @ 1:00 pm** to discuss the next book, The Sealed Letter, by Emma Donoghue.

New members welcome at any time. Please contact the church office for details.

*Margaret Isaacs*





## Messy Church



The Messy Church program has been continuing this winter. We just had our February session, where we focused on the story of the Good Samaritan, and what it means to be a good neighbour. Through the activities, we learned and re-told the story in different ways, even by acting it out! By making “kindness cards” for some of our church members, we practised showing care and compassion to others, just as the story teaches.



Coming up in March, we’re planning a special Easter Egg Colouring event! Please join us on **Good Friday, March 29, immediately following the 11am church service.** Everyone is welcome! We will be colouring Easter eggs, and lunch will be served. Please bring hard cooked eggs to decorate; all other supplies will be provided. Please let us know if you plan to attend: [stphilipsmessychurch@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipsmessychurch@gmail.com)



*Dawn Pascoe*

## World Day of Prayer

St. Philip’s hosts this year’s World Day of Prayer Service on **Friday, March 1 @ 1:30 pm.** St. Philip’s worked with 3 other churches in the area – St. Gregory’s Catholic Church, St. Matthew’s Anglican Church, and St. James United Church.



*Praying Palestinian Women*

The artist, Halima Aziz, made the artwork above in honour of World Day of Prayer.

The artist incorporates many symbols in the painting including an olive tree, golden roots, poppy flowers, Palestinian dress, and a key worn always to remember the home where they were driven out of with the hope of returning there.

This year’s ecumenical service is written by Palestinian women with a focus on Ephesians 4: 1 - 3. We will have a guest speaker, Heather Platt, from CLWR, Kitchener office. She has visited Palestine and many other countries completing groundwork for CLWR.

*March 1, 2024 @ 1:30 pm*



## Youth Retreat



On the weekend of **February 22** about 30 youth participated in a retreat at Hidden Acres in New Hamburg.



## Amal Project

On **Tuesday, February 27**, over 30 people gathered for food and conversation in our Fellowship Hall.



**Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm**  
**Joyful Noise Bell Choir: Mondays @ 7:15 pm**  
**Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm**  
**Cover Girls: Wednesdays @ 10:00 am**  
**Choir Practice: Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm**  
**World Day of Prayer: March 1 @ 1:30 pm**  
**Lunch and Learn: March 3 @ 11:15 am**  
**Soup Suppers @ 6:00 pm and Holden Evening Prayer Service @ 7:00 pm: Wednesdays: March 6, 13, 20**  
**LAVS: Friday, March 8 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Maundy Thursday Service March 28 @ 7:00 pm with Soup Supper @ 6:00 pm**  
**Good Friday Service March 29 @ 11:00 am with light lunch and egg decorating @ noon - in place of Messy Church this month**

### Readings for March

**Lent III – March 3**  
**Exodus 20:1-17/Psalm 19**  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-25/John 2:13-22**

**Lent IV – March 10**  
**Numbers 21:4-9/Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**  
**Ephesians 2:1-10/John 3:14-21**

**Lent V – March 17**  
**Jeremiah 31:31-34/Psalm 51:1-12**  
**Hebrews 5:5-10/John 12:20-33**

**Palm Sunday – March 24**  
**Mark 11:1-11/John 12:12-16**  
**Isaiah 50:4-9a/Psalm 31:9-16**  
**Philippians 2:5-11/Mark 14:1--15:47**

**Maundy Thursday – March 28**  
**Exodus 12:1-14/Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**  
**1 Corinthians 11:23-26/John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

**Good Friday – March 29**  
**Isaiah 52:13--53:12/Psalm 22**  
**Hebrews 10:16-25/John 18:1--19:42**

**Easter Sunday – March 31**  
**Acts 10:34-43/Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**  
**1 Corinthians 15:1-11/Mark 16:1-8**

50+

**Luncheon at Mandarin Restaurant**  
**1255 The Queensway**



**March 14 @ 12:15 pm**

Register by **March 12**: By using the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the church office at 416.622.5577.

If you are carpooling, please meet in the church parking lot @ 12:00 pm.

*Good food, fellowship, and fun!*

### Birth Announcement

Alessia and Ellen Gallipoli van Rensburg welcomed their first child, Lucia (Lucy) on **February 5, 2024** at 6 lbs. 6 oz. Congratulations to the parents and proud grandparents, Katherine and Buks van Rensburg.







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Karen Quinton, Music Director  
Phone: 416.231.9247  
[kgquinton@icloud.com](mailto:kgquinton@icloud.com)

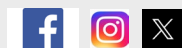
Mark Kieswetter, Music Director  
Emeritus

Margaret Isaacs, Office Administrator  
Phone: 416.622.5577  
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*'Friend' us [on Facebook](#)*

*Instagram: [@stphilipslutheran](#)*

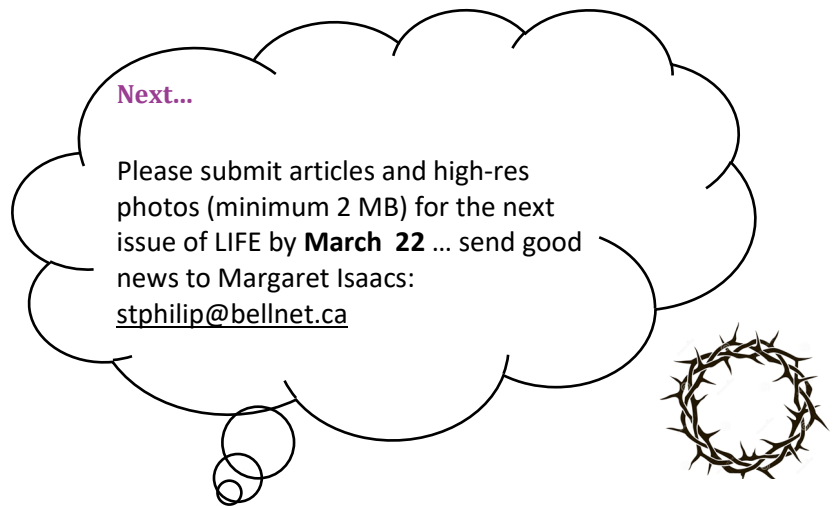
*Twitter: [@SPLCOnline](#)*



## Lunch and Learn: Prayer

Please join us on **Sunday, March 3** after worship. The topic is prayer and will be led by Dr. Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas. She is the Reverend Mother at the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, Toronto – a monastic community within the Anglican Church of Canada.

*The community is a contemporary expression of the religious life for women and centered on prayer.*



### Next...

Please submit articles and high-res photos (minimum 2 MB) for the next issue of LIFE by **March 22** ... send good news to Margaret Isaacs:  
[stphilip@bellnet.ca](mailto: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.