

# LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S



St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

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### DATES OF NOTE:

**April 10** – Book Club

**April 18** – 50+

**April 20** – Flower Show

**April 21** – Installation of  
Council

**April 27** – Messy Church

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 9 - 12

Church office closed on April 1  
– Easter Monday



## From Pastor Tuula

Following Palm Sunday worship, a woman came up to me, bumped my bent elbow, looked me straight in the eye and said: “The world will never change. Do you really believe it will?” She got me wondering: Do I think the Easter message can change the world? It seems to me that if I don’t, we should probably be asking ourselves what kind of church we are. Maybe the woman at the door isn’t the only one who feels that faith can’t offer hope for change in our broken world?

The Pew Research recently issued the results of a survey on the state of religious engagement in North America. They look grim for the church as we know it, with decline across the board and an increase in people who call themselves religiously unaffiliated. This is not the first time we’ve heard this, of course.

Regardless, during Easter season the readings we hear challenge us to build a church that embodies the Easter message and lives it out in ways that transform the world.

I am not quite ready to let go of the promise of transformation offered by the Easter message of love, hope and new birth. In fact, institutional decline may be just what we need to usher the church into a hopeful future.

The newly appointed St. Philip’s Church Council is wrestling with this question: How do we build a church that can change our community/city/world? How did the first Christians, desperate in many ways, build the first church? A thread running throughout the Easter story is courage. The first Christians faced a future they couldn’t see and took risks as if they had nothing to lose. They

*(...continued on next page)*

displayed the kind of courage many would call foolish. Still, it's clear in the story of the first church that a faith community convinced that Jesus' message can change the world acts with courage. They did it because they believed the message and trusted the messenger.

I hope the woman I met on Easter will come again. If she does, I will tell her that I stick with my conviction that God is transforming the world and that I want to keep trying to build a church that will make it happen.

*See you in church!*

*Pastor Tuula*

## Council News

On **Thursday, March 21** Church Council met with new members and ran elections for the executive positions. The new Church Council will be officially installed on **Sunday, April 21**.

## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Ellen Gallipoli van Rensburg

Sandi Hanslep-LePage

Andrea Holt

Victoria Luciani

Pat Lovell

Jeff Macko

Sam Marcuson, Secretary

Marcia Powers-Dunlop

Perry Taylor

**Resources:**

Jessica Abbona

Karen Adolph

Jerry Hogeveen

Gary Wuschnakowski

Please join us in welcoming:

*Chair: Marcia Powers-Dunlop*

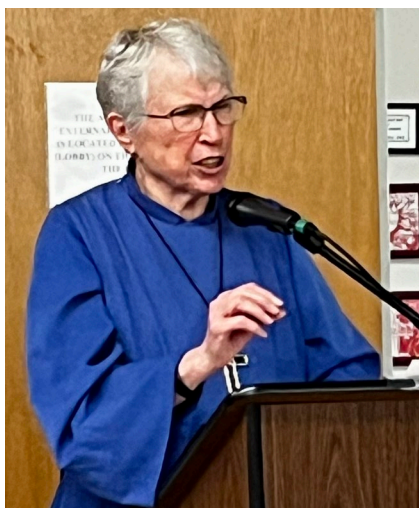
*Vice Chair: Sandi Hanslep-LePage*

Please pick up your new copy of the 2024 Church Directory for a full listing of our committees, groups, and contact information of our friends and family in the congregation. Contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

## Kids After School Cooking Class

## Lunch and Learn

On **Sunday, March 3** we hosted a Lunch and Learn with 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 topic was prayer.



We thank the family of Sewdharry Lakhan for the lovely lunch spread – it was enjoyed by all.

## Music Notes

Hello everyone!

At the time I am writing we have had some exceptionally beautiful weather, auguring warmer days ahead! You will read this near Easter, and we are thrilled to have Katie Clark play the trumpet with us on Easter Sunday, as well as Emily Savage, flautist, who played during the March 20th (Wednesday) service. It is planned that Emily will also join us in a choir anthem later in the spring.

Among vocal music currently being prepared is the famous Josh Groban hit "You raise me up", Oscar Peterson's "Hymn to freedom", plus a lovely women's anthem featuring a flute obbligato, a special version of the very famous Schubert song "To Music", and many others.

As always, suggestions are very welcome, and your comments are always appreciated by the choir and me. And if you like to sing, your presence in the choir 'loft' would be appreciated even more!

It is a great idea to make music-making and listening part of daily life - a healthy activity in every way!

With my very best wishes for spring;



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

*Karen Quinton*

## Good Food Winter Market

Our winter Good Food Market at 44 Willow Ridge packed up on **Tuesday, March 19**. We opened on Valentine's Day with chocolate covered strawberries for market goers and volunteers. It has been an incredible six Tuesdays. The produce was fresh and beautiful. Plantains, strawberries, and pineapples were among the top sellers. The community was delighted to have a winter version of their summer market. We put chairs in the hall for those who lined up early. The volunteers were committed and engaged. The weekly team of ten set up, unpacked, weighed, merchandised, priced, packed give aways, shopped along, cashed out, drew names of prize winners, showed hospitality, broke down boxes and cleaned up. Weekly free family gift bags included a nutritious recipe and a couple of the needed ingredients. The spinach and fruit smoothie was the hit of the season although offering samples lead to a few messes to be cleaned up. Weekly draws for grocery gift cards drew big cheers from winners and volunteers. While impossible to quantify it is evident to all involved that relationships were built, connections made and community developed.



Of special note is our experience working together with other Etobicoke churches. Several of our devoted volunteers came from the Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church shadowed us during this market and we are now excited to introduce them to an opportunity to set up a summer market at another Toronto Community Housing location. *'Inside every seed is the potential for an incredible harvest'*

Eunice Hogeveen

## SPLC Book Club



We met on **March 13** to discuss the latest book, The Sealed Letter, by Emma Donoghue over some lovely refreshments from Donna Schwantes and Joanne Bignell and special treats from Wendy Glinski.

We will meet **Wednesday, April 11 @ 1:00 pm** to discuss the next book, President's Wife, by Tracey Enerson Wood.

New members welcome at any time. Please contact the church office for details, at 416.622.5577.

Margaret Isaacs

## 50+

On **Thursday, March 14** the group met at the Mandarin Restaurant, 1255 The Queensway, to enjoy the array of food available at the buffet.





## World Day of Prayer

On **Friday, March 1** St. Philip's hosted the World Day of Prayer – Palestine. There were a record number of people in attendance and the offerings were substantial.

Heather Platt, CLWR-Kitchener office, spoke to the struggles and suffering of the Palestinian women in present day. She is in contact with women in Gaza on an ongoing basis. Her speech was heartfelt and the audience was emotionally moved.



After the moving service we headed upstairs to sample some foods associated with Palestine including dates, olives, sesame cookies, pitas with humus, and many platters of cakes, fruit, and vegetables. It was a time for celebration.



Thank you, Team Leader, Arlene Somerville, and to all those involved in making this such a successful day, most of whom are pictured below. And a special thank you to Doris Brownlie for bringing in cacti and other plants to adorn the tables.



Next year St. Matthew's Anglican Church will host this service with focus on the Cook Islands.

*Margaret Isaacs*

## IFTAR Dinner

I want to express my sincere appreciation to you and your team, especially Perry who did an amazing job. He showed up at 2:30 pm on **March 11, 2024**, assisted me with the set-up, and stayed up until almost 9:00 pm. Thank you, Perry!

It was a great community event; everyone enjoyed the food and being together.



I was so happy to meet your colleagues in person and learn about their roles and what we can collaborate on in the future.

Looking forward working with you again.

*Best regards, Zahra*

## Announcements of Engagement



We announce the engagement of Andrew Erlandson and Tiffany Storms on **February 23** while hiking in Algonquin Park.

Tiffany has 3 kids(Desmond [13], Kylie [10, turning 11 on April 13th], and Clark [8]), so with my 2 boys (Lucas [11] and Owen [9]) we'll have 5 kids between us... it's going to be a busy household!

We announce the engagement of Yolanda Fil and Eugene Coveazin on **March 7**.



*Congratulations!*



**Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm**  
**Joyful Noise Bell Choir: Mondays @ 7:15 pm**  
**Prayer Group: Tuesdays @ 9:30 am**  
**Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm**  
**Bible Study on Zoom: Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88381867933>  
 Meeting ID: 883 8186 7933

**Cover Girls: Wednesdays @ 10:00 am**  
**Choir Practice: Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm**  
**SPLC Book Club: Wednesday, April 10 @ 1:00 pm**  
**50+ Thursday, April 18 @ 11:30 am**  
**LAVS Flower Show: Saturday, April 20 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Messy Church: Saturday, April 27 @ 4:00 pm**

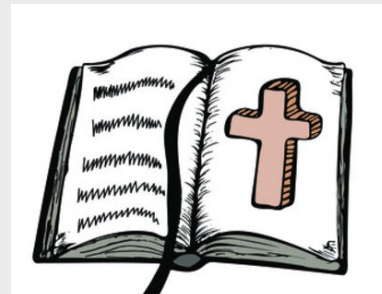
### Readings for April

**2nd Sunday of Easter – April 7**  
 Acts 4:32-35/Psalm 133  
 1 John 1:1--2:2/John 20:19-31

**3rd Sunday of Easter – April 14**  
 Acts 3:12-19/Psalm 4  
 1 John 3:1-7/Luke 24:36b-48

**4th Sunday of Easter – April 21**  
 Acts 4:5-12/Psalm 23  
 1 John 3:16-24/John 10:11-18

**5th Sunday of Easter – April 28**  
 Acts 8:26-40/Psalm 22:25-31  
 1 John 4:7-21/John 15:1-8



### 50+ Lunch and Show



**April 19 @ 11:30 am**  
**Famous People Players Theatre,**  
**343 Evans Ave.**

Cost: \$70 per person including taxes, tip, lunch, and show

There are only 20 spots. Register by **April 9**: By using the sign-up sheet in narthex or call the church office at 41.622.5577.

*Good food, fellowship, and fun!*

### Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Van Gaasbeek and Miles Slinde and proud grandparents, Tuula and Gary Van Gaasbeek on the birth of Jack Hartwell Slinde on **March 6, 2024** at 7 lbs. 13 oz., 19.6".





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

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Mark Kieswetter, Music Director  
Emeritus

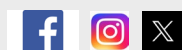
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*'Friend' us [on Facebook](#)*

*Instagram: [@stphilipslutheran](#)*

*Twitter: [@SPLCOnline](#)*



## Kitchen Upgrade

Please note that the kitchen will undergo an upgrade starting on **April 9**. It is estimated that it will take about one month to complete the work. Grant monies received will cover the costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Raija or Eunice. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Funded by the  
Government of Canada's  
Community Services Recovery Fund



### Next...

Please submit articles and high-res photos (minimum 2 MB) for the next issue of LIFE by **April 26** ... 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.