

LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

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DATES OF NOTE:

April 2 – Palm Sunday
 April 6 – Maundy Thursday
 April 7 – Good Friday and Egg
 Decorating w/lunch
 April 9 – Easter Sunday
 April 13 – 50+
 April 22 – Messy Church
 April 29 – Flower Show

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 9 – 12



From the Pastor

I think that one of the hardest and most beautiful parts of being human is saying goodbye. All of us, it doesn't matter who you are, say goodbye to dreams and expectations we've held for our lives...goodbye to places that hold meaning and ground us...and, goodbye to people we love. When we say goodbye, whatever the circumstances of that parting, there is this unique moment of opportunity to look back on all the joy and pain of that human relationship and say some final, important things. These goodbyes are magnified moments of human living, where we feel again our failure, our joy, and the wonder of loving and being loved, and we say thank you: for the ways in which your life has helped me live my life.

As the disciples gathered around the table that Thursday night for their last meal together, Jesus broke the bread and poured the wine and looked at each of them. Imagine what his goodbyes must have sounded like: "James and John - sometimes both of you are way too intense, but I admire devotion. Peter - you're crazy and impetuous, but I do love you. Judas - I'm praying that I can remember you carry so much pain that you can't let yourself recognize love.

On Maundy Thursday, it is you and me around that table. We remember that meal, as Jesus told us to do. We consider what Jesus might say were he looking across the table, straight into my eyes or yours. "Don't let your fear direct your life. Stop trying so hard to get the world to love you. I wish for you that you would let go of the anger. And, most of all: "I love you. I will always be with you. Please don't forget."

(continued on next page)

As a matter of fact, we are invited to experience around that table a magnified moment of human living, where we feel our failure, our joy, and the wonder of loving and being loved, and we remember: there's a place for everyone at the table. Everyone...as we come to say our goodbyes to a Saviour who showed us what love means and say something like: *Thank you for the ways in which your life has helped me live mine.*

Maundy Thursday is the start of Triduum (three days) which continues on Good Friday, and ends on Easter Sunday. I encourage you to attend services on all three days to fully experience the highs and lows in your faith, ending with the ultimate high — the new life of the resurrection.

*See you in church,
Pastor Tuula*

From Janelle Lightbourne, Intern

The past couple months have been full of activities and enriching learning experiences. A couple highlights for me were the community meal we served at Evangel Hall Mission and the Lunch and Learn on Allyship I led with our Council Chair, Jerry Hogeveen. The engagement from St. Philip's was strong and clear for both of these events.



For the community meal, we cooked and served food for 190 participants who were living in poverty and/or deprived of housing. This was a valuable learning experience for our confirmands who also participated in the shopping, cooking, and serving the meal. For some of them, serving at Evangel Hall was their first experience interacting with people who are homeless. As we discussed it in our confirmation class the following week, a few students mentioned how the meal changed their perception of people who are homeless. They saw more similarities than differences and reflected on what more we can do to help.

The Allyship Lunch and Learn also sparked meaningful conversations at the event and in the week that followed. People of all ages and abilities participated in the discussion making it an intergenerational learning experience. This gave me lots of hope for our church and denomination.

One thing I am looking forward to in the coming month is the Young Adult Retreat coming up on May 5 - 7 at Cave Springs Camp. I am on a planning team for this retreat along with James Suknundun who is a member here at St. Philip's. The total cost for the weekend is \$60 and young adults can register here - <https://form.jotform.com/230795601070249>. We are excited about connecting with young adults from our Synod, encouraging faith and building community. Please see page 9 for further details.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I'm always up for a conversation! I hope you have a refreshing and joy-filled Easter.

*With gratitude, Janelle Lightbourne, Pastoral Intern
519.852.6772; sja.lightbourne@gmail.com*

Council Corner

Our new council met for the first time since the Annual Meeting in February. We welcomed our newest members: Pat Lovell and Sam Marcuson. Elected to the executive were Jerry Hogeveen as chairperson, Marcia Powers Dunlop as vice chair, Gary Wuschnakowski as treasurer and Sam Marcuson as secretary. Other council members for 2023 are listed in the new Church Directory. We thanked Donna Schwantes for her support in the past year with minutes and process.

Our overarching goal as the new council is to continue the 2022 efforts on building community and rebuilding connection/relationships with each other. Programs and initiatives underway to do so include: the intergenerational Messy Church pilot, Lunch & Learn sessions, Bible Study, and Coffee Hour. Other significant plans for the year ahead are:

- to continue to address community needs and food insecurity through the Good Food Market & Neighbourhood Table
- to encourage all members to get involved in an Agape Meal/Stewardship drive
- to offer regular focused, topical, small group learning sessions
- to help the Afghan family to re-settle in Etobicoke

We have a wonderful team assembled to help our refugee family. We continue to look for furniture contributions and ideas for housing this family.

We need members to join our property committee to help with the care and maintenance of our property. If you are open to considering this role, please contact Pastor Tuula, Herb Feller, or myself.

We appreciate your prayers and your continuing contributions of time, talents, and possessions to ensure St. Philip's thrives as a faith community in meeting the needs of its members and our neighbours.

Happy Spring!
Jerry Hogeveen, Council Chair

Sponsorship of Family of 5

As you may or may not know, St. Philip's will be sponsoring a refugee family from Afghanistan. Maryam Omari and her family are fleeing persecution at the hands of the Taliban because of her and her husband's activities as journalists. Maryam and her family fled to Pakistan in November of last year and are currently staying in a refugee camp there. The Canadian Lutheran World Relief has already committed to supporting Maryam and her family financially with \$30,000 US. So, our role in the St. Philip's community is to assist with getting the family settled in Canada by finding housing, furnishing their home, helping them access necessary medical care, registering the family for ESL classes and schooling, and in general help orient them in this new community.



It's exactly this kind of service that's really important to us in serving the needs of our neighbours. Although this family is from a place far away and that many of us have never been to, they are looking for something that all of us want. Peace, community, and a safe place to call home. I'm sure that each and every one of you has felt welcomed and supported by the St. Philip's community. Take a moment to think about that time. I believe that because of this we all have a moral obligation to help others in many of the same ways that we have helped and supported each other. No one ever said that doing this is easy, but practicing hospitality of open hearts and open arms, creating inclusive communities, and channeling our gifts and faith to support others is something that we at St. Philip's do best.

Emily Wuschnakowski
emwusch1@gmail.com

Messy Church

We've been getting Messy @ St Philip's!

In January we began a 5-month pilot of Messy Church @ St Philip's. We wanted to offer a series of monthly faith formation learning experiences that are compelling, Christ centred & faith based, active, creative, intergenerational, and hospitable. These are the values of the international program "Messy Church".

We've been gathering @ 4pm on the last Saturday of the month and really getting messy! We start with a story, then a choice of up to 10 activities for fun and creative learning of the story, share a meal and then a celebration. Activities are a variety so that there is something for everyone and all ages. We are "The Big Family of God" – our theme song. (You heard it at the annual meeting.) @ 6pm we're refreshed and energized and say our good-byes (until the next Messy Church).

In January we explored the idea of inclusion with the story of the man with leprosy. February, we hosted our own welcome party as we heard the story of the great banquet and were creative with the theme that all are welcome. (Check out the banner we made at the front of the church.) March was a look at the Beatitudes – God's blessings – or for our creative activities: the Bee-Attitudes as we reflected on "What God wants us to be".

It's fun, it's energizing, it's reconnecting and building relationships! At Messy Church, people at all stages of their faith journey have an opportunity to grow closer to God and God's children. Consider joining us for the next Messy Church @ St Philip's! Watch the weekly email and announcements for details about the next event.



Karen Adolph



Messy Church Photos



50+



On **Thursday, February 9** the 50+ group met for a chili luncheon followed by a Q & NA with Dr. Gary Morningstar.



On **Thursday, March 16** the 50+ group met to hear the personal journey of Angela Shaw in finding her birth parents.



Please see page 10 for details on the next planned event.

Interfaith Harmony Week

On **Sunday, February 5** we celebrated an interfaith worship service with Rev. Michelle Singh, Yasmin Ratansi, Shivram Trichur, Paul McKenna, Imam Habeeb Alli, Rev. Earl Smith, and our own John Voorpostel, all pictured below with Pastor Tuula.



No Fixed Address House Band performed well-known songs – Draw the Circle Wide and Children of the Light as well as other music.

We had the wonderful opportunity to hear from singers of the Sri Chinmoy Meditation Centre. They performed, “Peace: God’s Beauty in His Oneness Home” and “Shantih – Peace Chant.”

Personal Visit

On **Thursday, February 2** Pastor Tuula visited with Mary and Astor in their lovely home. They appreciated the visit s they have not been able to atnd in-person worship for quite some time.



Winter Good Food Market



THE GOOD FOOD MARKET
ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AT 7 CAPRI ROAD



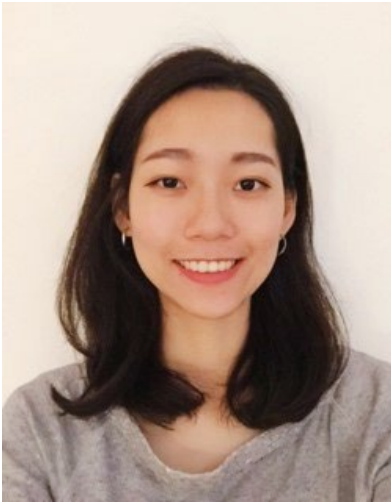
Our neighbours at 7 Capri have a newly renovated community space. The St. Philip's Good Food Market was the first event invited in. We held six markets from February 14th to March 21st. This was our first ever winter market.

The market had a buzz every week. Residents lined up at the door waiting for the 4:00 pm opening in hopes of getting the mango, pineapples, okra, and other fresh produce they wanted. They appreciated the affordable pricing. They sampled from trays of cut-up veggies and fruit. They brought their kids for the weekly food activities. One of the favourites was making and eating rice cake faces. They entered their names for the weekly grocery gift card draw. Market goers left happy with a goodie bag containing a recipe and several ingredients for the recipe. Apple crisp might have been the favourite.

Much sadness was expressed on the final market day. We volunteers were also sad as we heard the call to 'come back soon'.

Eunice Hogeveen

World Day of Prayer



“The subjects of my art always depict the relationship of mothers, women, and people. In my exhibitions, I compose my artwork to express my observation, gratitude, and faith.”

The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently, and looking up into the dark. Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.



The Mikado pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill are both of unique significance to the Taiwanese people. Their distinctiveness symbolizes a characteristic of the Taiwanese people—confidence and perseverance in times of difficulty.

The green grass and Phalaenopsis (Butterfly) orchids stand out against the dark background. They are the pride of Taiwan, which has a worldwide reputation as the “Kingdom of Orchids.” Green grass represents the Taiwanese as simple, confident, strong and under God’s care.

On **Friday, March 3** St. James United Church hosted this year’s World Day of Prayer with the theme: Taiwan. Pastor Tuula and our Intern, Janelle Lightbourne, are pictured below with Janice Feller and Arlene Somerville.



Young Adult Retreat (20+)

Consider The Lilies

Finding Grace in a Grind-Mindset Society

May 5–7, 2023

Location: Cave Springs Camp – 4410 Cave Spring Rd.
Beamsville, ON

Cost: \$60 Inclusive (Event Sponsored by ELCIC YAYA)

Please contact Janelle Lightbourne (sja.lightbourne@gmail.com)
or Bethan Riehle-Johns (pastorfaithbrantford@gmail.com) with any questions.



Violets of the North
The Lakeshore African Violet Society
Show and Sale
Saturday, April 29
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Open to the public
Free Admission

Visit our website: <http://lakeshoreavs.com>

Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm

Joyful Noise Bell Choir: Mondays @ 7:15 pm

Bible Study on Zoom: Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm on April 11, 18, 25

Zoom Details:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88117147080?pwd=ejEyTFZTSUhBN2Mxa3k1bTZlMzB0UT09>
Meeting ID: 881 1714 7080

Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Cover Girls: Wednesdays @ 10:00 am

Lakeshore African Violet Society: Friday, April 14 @ 7:00 pm

Confirmation Class: Sunday, April 16 @ 11:30 am

Messy Church: Saturday, April 29 @ 4:00 pm

Lakeshore African Violet Society: Flower Show: Saturday, April 29 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Readings for April

Palm Sunday – April 2
Matthew 21:1-11/Isaiah 50:4-9a/Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11/Matthew 26:14—27:66

Maundy Thursday – April 6
Exodus 12:1-14/Psalm 116:1-2,12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26/John 13:1-17,31b-35

Good Friday – April 7
Isaiah 52:13—53:12/Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25/John 18:1—19:42

Easter Sunday – April 9
Acts 10:34-43/Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
Colossians 3:1-4/Matthew 28:1-10

2nd Sunday of Easter – April 16
Acts 2:14a,22-32/Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9/John 20: 19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter – April 23
Acts 2:14a,36-41/Psalm 116:1-4,12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23/Luke 24:13-35

4th Sunday of Easter – April 30
Acts 2:42-47/Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25/John 10:1-10

50+



When: **Thursday, April 13 @ 12:30 pm**

Speaker: TBD

Potluck Lunch: We would like the following items:

- Cold cuts (3)
- Salads (4)
- Breads (3)
- Light Desserts (4)

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

Birth Announcement



Rod Erlandson is pictured above with his granddaughter, Isabel Bonita, born **February 8** weighing 11 lbs. 1 oz. with a length of 21.85”.

Congratulations to the parents Kathryn Erlandson and Rodrigo Cavalcante and to the grandparents - Rod and Bonnie!



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 2

Worship Service @ 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Worship Service @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7

Worship Service @ 11:00 am

Egg Decorating w/Lunch @ 12:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9

Worship Service @ 10:00 am in the Sanctuary



St. Philip's Lutheran Church
61 West Deane Park Dr.
Toronto, ON M9B 2S1
www.stPhilipstoronto.com

Pastor Tuula Van Gaasbeek

Phone: 416.859.5588

stphilippastor@bellnet.ca

Chris Ritcey-Conrad, Music Director

Phone: 416.220.7300

pnoshoppe@gmail.com

Mark Kieswetter, Music Director
Emeritus

Margaret Isaacs, Office
Administrator

Phone: 416.622.5577

stphilip@bellnet.ca

Janelle Lightbourne, Intern

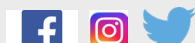
Phone: 519.852.6772

sja.lightbourne@gmail.com

'Friend' us on Facebook

Instagram: @stPhilip'slutheran

Twitter: @SPLCOnline



2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY



The new directory is ready. Please pick up your copy!

Please contact the church office if you would like a copy mailed to you.

Next...

Please submit articles and high-res photos (minimum 2 MB) for the next issue of LIFE by **April 21** ... 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.