

LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

In This Issue:

Community Conversations – 2
 Finance Update – 3
 Music Notes – 3
 50+ / Blessing of Pets – 4
 Confirmation – 5
 Synod Meeting / Birthday – 5
 Messy Church – 6
 50+ / Schedule – 7
 Life Passages – 7

DATES OF NOTE:

November 5 – All Saints Sunday

November 11 – Caring Conversations

November 12 – Jazzy Brunch

November 16 – 50+

November 25 – Messy Church

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 9 - 12

HOLIDAYS:

Pastor Tuula will be away from Nov. 21 - Dec. 2

Please contact Rev. Nadine Nicholds for any pastoral care at 647.403.5545



From Pastor Tuula

I remember the first time that I realized doctors did not know the solution to every medical problem. My thinking had been when you have a medical problem, you go to see a professional, who will know how to fix it. It was sobering when I realized that may not be the case.

I've been thinking about that moment of realization as I, along with the rest of the world, have been watching horrific acts of terror played out all over the world. How will we fix this? Surely our leaders know how to get us to a place of peaceful exchange, to right again this world that has become so un-righted? I'm having the same sort of sinking feeling I had the first time I realized doctors can't fix every medical problem.

Political engagement seems like a long shot to keep people from killing each other. The conflicts that have led to recent acts of terror are intensely complicated, generations long, and happening in cultures we don't understand—far away. And while there are many working to broker peace through political means, I think we'd better realize that it will take a lot more than political maneuvering to get us to a better world. It's going to take all of us, not just politicians, to change the tide of hatred, violence, and injustice in the world.

Sound overwhelming to you? It does to me, too. But I am a person of faith. And if you are, too, then knowing we don't have the answers to solve the problems we face, we might try to remember the things that we know about what we believe.

(...continued on next page)


This is time to embrace with all the courage we can muster, the conviction that the kingdom of God is coming to be right here and now. We can be part of that emergence by rejecting terror—on a large scale and on an individual scale—and living in life-giving relationship with each other: in our families, in our communities of faith, in our neighbourhoods, anywhere we have power to enact life-giving relationship.

Love will conquer hate. We must hang onto that conviction with every part of who we are, because the minute we give in to the fear, violence, hatred and death around us, we become part of the problem. Eugene Peterson writes: “All the water in the oceans cannot sink a ship unless it gets inside. Nor can all the trouble in the world harm us unless it gets within us.”

What can we do with the desperation we feel as we look around at our broken world? We can take in the divine mandate to be God’s people in the world, and live as if we really believe it.

See you in church!
Pastor Tuula

Community Conversations



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
FOSTERING **RACIAL JUSTICE**

**A SERIES OF ENGAGEMENTS FOR
CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS**

Engagement #2 - Am I Biased?
We will explore forms of bias and how they impact others.

Saturday Nov. 11, 2023
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM
St Philip's Lutheran Church
61 West Deane Park Drive
Etobicoke

For more information
and to Register:
<https://ESynodRacialJustice.eventbrite.com>

Join us for an engaging and thought-provoking event. This in-person gathering aims to explore the topic of biases in our society. Are we all biased in some way? Let's dive deep into this conversation and gain a better understanding of ourselves and our community.

We will provide material to bring you up to speed. The purpose is to enhance our ministry by fostering inclusive communities where everyone feels welcome, wholly accepted and fully engaged. We began in the first session with increasing our awareness of the things that deter our desire for full welcome and inclusion. In this session we will encounter the role of bias in racial justice work. Future sessions are planned for Feb 3, 2024, April 20, 2024, and Sept 21, 2024. We will build on what we have learned and discover ways to address it. Participants will come away from each session with tools they can use to foster a culture change in their individual congregations.

Finance Update

Please find below a financial update for the period of January to the end of September, 2023. Last month I reported a net loss of \$26,976 to the end of August, I can now report that the loss has continued to grow so that as of September 30, 2023 we are at a loss of \$29,321.



With nine months (or 75%) of the year complete our spending is on budget with expenses of \$196,851 (75%) against income of \$167,530 or 63% of our approved budget of \$264,000.

As a result, at the end of September, we are currently running a deficit of just over \$29,000 which is approximately \$17,700 further in the red than this time last year.

Some year-to-date financial numbers:

	2022(Sep/30)	2023(Sep/30)
Income	\$171,551	\$167,530
Expense	\$183,214	\$196,851
Net Income (Loss)	(\$11,663)	(\$29,321)
Benevolence	\$17,115	\$18,567

As we move into fall please consider continuing to make your weekly donation.

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

Gary Wuschnakowski

Music Notes

Hello everyone!

I am very much enjoying the beginning of my tenure at St. Philip's Church and thank you all for your warm welcome. It is wonderful to be attending a church which is so close to my neighborhood. I hope I can get to know you all as time goes by and find out more about your musical tastes and preferences.

Music serves so many functions: it calms, lifts, inspires, and accesses countless depths of memories. To use it in worship is perhaps the best of all, and this tradition is centuries old. St. Philip's has a very accomplished choir and one of my purposes is to make it an enjoyable and satisfying time for the members – a balance of careful work, artistically satisfying music, and not to forget – fun! Members have already been researching jokes for lighthearted moments, which are an important part of any gathering.

Potential members – and Christmas members! – are welcome to come and see if you'd like to spend 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Wednesdays singing with us. I am in the process of preparing recordings of the music we are singing and if you would like to be emailed your part that will make the learning process even easier.

Looking forward to seeing and meeting more of you, and again, thank you for the welcome!

Karen Quinton
 416.231.9247
kgquinton@icloud.com



*Calling all carollers!
 Christmas Choir Practice
 Nov. 8 - Dec. 20 @ 7:30 pm*

50+ Oktoberfest Celebration

On **Thursday, October 19** the 50+ group enjoyed an Oktoberfest lunch complete with pretzels and sausages and many other side dishes.

George Kash entertained us with his accordion skills and had everyone joining in on the fun.



Please see page 7 for details on our next event scheduled for **Thursday, November 16**.

Life @ St. Philip's

Blessing of Pets and Altar Decor

On **Saturday, October 7** Pastor Tuula met with pets and their owners and later helped with decorating the altar for Thanksgiving.



If you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory of or in honour of, please contact the church office.

Confirmation Class 2023

Confirmands were confirmed on **Sunday, October 29.**



Congratulations to Jack Luciani, Mark Luciani, Marleah Roche, and Liam Stewart.



Eastern Synod Meeting



Chef Camille lead a cooking activity on making Vietnamese spring rolls on **Tuesday, October 17.**

Bonnie's Birthday Celebration

On **Saturday, October 21**, Rod Erlandson rented our Fellowship Hall to celebrate Bonnie's 65th birthday.



Messy Church



The Messy Church program has been continuing this fall. We gather once a month and participate in activities, share a meal together, and end with a worship celebration. Each month centers around a biblical theme and story, and is suitable for every stage of the faith journey. During September, we learned about how God created everything, and it was good! In October, we heard the story of Jonah and focused on the theme of prayer. Coming up in November, we'll hear the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Messy Church is intended for all ages, and all are welcome! There is a great variety of creative activities, including arts & crafts, games, and science experiments, so there's something for everyone. It's fun, casual, and sometimes a little "messy"!

Explore the story...



Joseph and his Brothers

November 25

We would love to see you on **Saturday, November 25 at 4:00 pm**. Please invite your friends. To let us know you're coming, or if you're interested in volunteering, please send us an email at stphilipsmessychurch@gmail.com.



Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm
Joyful Noise Bell Choir: Mondays @ 7:15 pm
Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm
Bible Study will return in December with Advent Bible Study (Dec. 5, 12, 19)
Cover Girls: Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Choir Practice: Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm
LAVS: Friday, Nov. 10 @ 7:00 pm
Caring Conversations: Nov. 11 @ 9:30 am
Jazzy Brunch: Nov. 12 @ 11:00 am
50+ Thursday, Nov. 16 @ 11:30 am
Messy Church: Saturday, Nov. 25 @ 4:00 pm

JAZZY BRUNCH
with our
SUNDAY BUNCH

JOIN US!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
11 AM TO 1 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

FULL SUNDAY BRUNCH
 MO-WEST TRIO JAZZ BAND
 KIDS ACTIVITIES

COME JOIN US AS WE KICK-OFF OUR
 YEAR END FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!

\$20 SUGGESTED BRUNCH PER PERSON. KIDS ARE FREE.

SIGN UP:
 CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD OR PHONE/EMAIL OFFICE

50+



Light Lunch of soup and bread provided with two options:

- Option 1: Tour of Holocaust Museum,
4588 Bathurst St.
Carpooling to venue
Admission: \$12/person
- Option2: Games at the church

When: **Thursday, November 16 @ 11:30 am**

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

Life Passages

Pastor Tuula met with **Astor Hanslep** for his birthday on October 3. Sadly, he passed on Saturday, October 21. A funeral will be held at the church on November 1.



1931 - 2023



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
tvangaasbeek@bell.net

Karen Quinton, Music Director
Phone: 416.231.9247
kgquinton@icloud.com

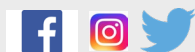
Mark Kieswetter, Music Director
Emeritus

Margaret Isaacs, Office Administrator
Phone: 416.622.5577
stphilip@bellnet.ca

'Friend' us [on Facebook](#)

Instagram: [@stphilipslutheran](#)

Twitter: [@SPLCOnline](#)



Silent Auction December 10

**DONATIONS of AUCTION ITEMS
NEEDED!**



Auction Items: Tickets to sporting events, activities, theatre, dinner.

Please speak with Donna Schwantes or Pastor Tuula if you are interested in donating or helping out with this event.

Proceeds go toward budget deficit.

Next...

Please submit articles and high-res photos (minimum 2 MB) for the next issue of LIFE by **November 24** ... 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.