

LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

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DATES OF NOTE:

May 14 - Mother's Day

May 18 - 50+ picnic

May 22 - Victoria Day

May 27 - Messy Church

May 28 - Pentecost Sunday with
Reception of New Members

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 9 - 12

OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday, May 22 - Victoria Day

HOLIDAYS:

Pastor Tuula
May 1 - 12; May 29 - June 8



From Pastor Tuula

Jean (not her real name) called with concern to let me know that her son was hospitalized and not doing well. He was hurt in a workplace accident. That was the first part of the call. She then began to cry gently as she began to reflect on all her kids. "I don't know why none of them have any interest in faith or church community. They have no idea what it could mean in a time like this, and I don't know how to help them." I didn't record the call, but I know the drift of what I said. It's a conversation I've had many times before.

Understanding our lives as a daily gift is a huge part of discovering faith. This is different from appreciating life for its joys or even acknowledging its pains and sorrows. To view life as a daily gift means there's a giver behind that gift. When someone gives a gift, the response is gratitude. What may not be apparent to people inclined to dismiss faith is that gratitude has particularity. Being thankful in general is like being married in general. It makes no sense in the abstract. Someone has gifted you with today, and that someone is not you.

The desire for God is the beginning of faith. We might think that a relationship with God is everything, but I wonder if the desire for that relationship isn't as sweet as the relationship itself. As I think back on my own experiences of falling in love, the desire was as beautiful as the relationship itself.

I don't think we can create desire in other people. We can, however, help stir up longings for God and faith. As I said to Jean at the close

(...continued on next page)

of our call, “if your kids can’t feel the longing, all you can do is ‘long for the longing’ in them.”

I encourage you to learn more about gratitude in our May book and film study inspired by Diana Butler-Bass’ book *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*. This study can lead you to a deeper truth in your spiritual growth and inspire you to live with the kind of generosity and gratitude that defies systems of scarcity and brings healing to the world.

*See you in church,
Pastor Tuula*

From Janelle Lightbourne, Intern



For the month of May, I will be leading a discussion group on the film series *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler-Bass. This group will remind us of the truth of God’s abundance and help us change the way we see and act in the world. Discussion topics include connecting, gratitude practices, how to find abundance within, what it looks like to be a cooperative culture rather than one of competitive sharing. Our discussions will give us an opportunity to reorient, remember and connect—to circle around the table of God together where God is ever-giving and there is more than enough for everyone. I hope you can join us! See you Tuesdays at 7pm on Zoom. Please find zoom details on page 7.

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

Council Corner

Our April meeting was rescheduled and held on Tuesday, April 25.

We appreciate the need to focus energy on the longer term as well as manage the month-to-month agendas. So, with that in mind we will be investing time every second meeting on longer term issues.

To recap, in 2023 we will continue to offer the programs and initiatives underway which include: intergenerational Messy Church pilot, Lunch & Learn sessions, Bible Study and Coffee Hour. We are also currently focused on plans:

- to address community needs and food insecurity through the Good Food Market and Neighbourhood Table
- to offer regular focused, topical, small group learning sessions
- to help the Afghan family to re-settle in Etobicoke

Longer term topics include:

- how we more effectively use our building to meet the needs of our neighbours
- how to engage and collaborate with Synod in taking a leadership role in the future of the Lutheran church in Toronto. How we might use closures, congregational redevelopment etc. to keep the Lutheran church community in west Toronto healthy and vibrant.
- how to do a stewardship program connected with an Agape meal style engagement to reflect on and commit to meeting the needs of our members and neighbours
- how to proceed with incorporating the church

We look forward to working with you on this ambitious agenda. If you are eager to become more deeply engaged in the wonderful work of St.

Philip's, please contact Marcia Powers-Dunlop at marcia-powers-dunlop@rogers.com, or myself at jerry.hogeveen@gmail.com.

We appreciate your prayers and your continuing contributions of time, talents, and possessions.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me.

Jerry Hogeveen, Council Chair
jerry.hogeveen@gmail.com



Thank You

I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. It has removed a great deal of stress from my life, and I am now able to move toward my journey's end with much less anxiousness and worry.



You have been so, so supportive, right from the very beginning. The road of my music career has had some wonderful twists and turns, and that it led me to be with you all for the last 10 years of it was no small miracle.

Helping to shape the worship service, and to support and lift up prayers and praises the best we all are able has been one of the true and pure joys of my life. I am forever blessed and grateful.

God's richest blessings on you all, and always, always love and help one another.

Mark Kieswetter

From the Choir Loft

There is not much to say that hasn't already been said! But I continue to feel the need to thank all of the choir members who came out and showed up for all of the Holy Week services.



It was so great to have so many voices on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The choir worked extra hard to pull off a very difficult Easter Sunday anthem, and I couldn't be prouder.



Looking forward to the summer, the choir will be winding down towards the end of June. We will return to using cantors throughout the summer.

Please sign up for a Sunday if you would like to sing or grab a friend and you can both sing! If the spirit moves you to join the cantors singing on any given Sunday, I will not say no to extra voices.

We will see the band play on the last Sunday of each month and in June we will begin some outdoor services, weather permitting.

The past year has been a lot of fun getting back into a routine similar to what was prior to the pandemic, and I'm looking forward to the summer worshipping with you all.

Until the fall!

*Peace, love, and music from the choir loft,
Chris Ritcey-Conrad*

Community Outreach Coordinator

We are enthusiastically engaged in shaping our 2023 summer plans for the Good Food Market and The Neighbourhood Table. We can share that the Good Food Market will be running at a different Toronto Community Housing location, 44 Willowridge Road. The residents are very keen to have and support a fresh produce market.

The other big news is that we were approved for the Canada Summer Job funding and have hired a Community Outreach Coordinator, **Jennelle Rock**. She will be us from late May to the beginning of September. Her introduction is below:



I am excited to say that I will be joining the team this summer as a Community Outreach Coordinator! Having completed my undergraduate degree in sociology and community health, I have developed a passion for breaking down sociological barriers with the intention of improving health at a community level. I have experience facilitating a Good Food Market in a south Etobicoke community and am eager to continue creating a positive impact in this community. My passion for health will undoubtedly serve as a driving force in my work and I am excited to connect with community members and congregational volunteers to further learn from them as well. By working collaboratively, we have an opportunity to improve people's wellbeing and build community with our neighbours.

Eunice Hogeveen and Jennelle Rock

Messy Church

Participants gathered on April 22 for *the empty tomb – magic, science, or miracle?*

The final pilot of Messy Church will occur on **Saturday, May 27 @ 4:00 pm.**



Egg Décor

On **Good Friday, April 7** we hosted a light lunch with an egg colouring activity following worship.



50+

On **Thursday, April 13** the 50+ group met for a spring luncheon and heard from speakers of Arab Community Centre for Toronto (ACCT) regarding refugee settlement in Etobicoke. See page 7 for details on the next planned event.



Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm
Joyful Noise Bell Choir: Mondays @ 7:15 pm
Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm
Bible Study: Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81808545470?pwd=Tk1STUdmM2RCVC9ZeURMaTUyRWRrQT09>
 Meeting ID: 818 0854 5470

Cover Girls: Wednesdays @ 10 am
Vocal Choir: Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
LAVS: Friday, May 12 @ 7:00 pm
Confirmation Class: Sunday, May 14 @ 11:30 am
50+: May 18 @ 12:00 pm
Church Council Meeting: May 25 @ 7:00 pm
Messy Church: Saturday, May 27 @ 4:00 pm

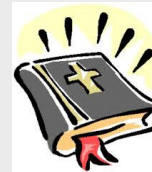
Readings for May

5th Sunday of Easter - May 7
 Acts 7:55-60/Psalm 31:1-5,15-16
 1 Peter 2:2-10/John 14:1-14


6th Sunday of Easter – May 14
 Acts 17:22-31/Psalm 66:8-20
 1 Peter 3:13-22/John 14:15-21

7th Sunday of Easter – May 21
 Acts 1:6-14/Psalm 68:1-10,32-35
 1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11/John 17:1-11

Day of Pentecost – May 28
 Acts 2:1-21/Psalm 104:24-34,35b
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13/John 20:19-23



50+ Picnic



When: **Thursday, May 18 @ 12:00 pm**

Lunch: Bring your own picnic and meet at church

Program: Tour of Centennial Park Conservatory

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

Doug and Wendy Kearns



Congratulations to the happy couple celebrating 50 years of marriage on May 12!

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Life Passages

Margaret Weeks
April 16, 1932 – April 19, 2023

A funeral has held at St. Philip's on **Friday, April 21 @ 11:30 am** with reception afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

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

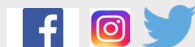
Phone: 519.852.6772

sja.lightbourne@gmail.com

'Friend' us [on Facebook](#)

Instagram: [@stphilipslutheran](#)

Twitter: [@SPLCOnline](#)



Happy Mother's Day



We celebrate "mothers" on
Sunday, May 14.

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
summer issue of LIFE by **May 26** ... 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.