

LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S



St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

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DATES OF NOTE:

May 8 - SPLC Book Club
May 23 - 50+ Luncheon
May 25 - Messy Church
May 26 - Worship with Bishop Pryse preaching; Reception of New Members

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 9 - 12
 Closed: May 20 - Victoria Day

HOLIDAYS

Pastor Tuula:
 May 1 - 14
 Margaret Isaacs:
 May 21

Rev. Susan Climo can be contacted at 416.573.5372 or sclimo@sympatico.ca during Pastor Tuula's absence.



From Pastor Tuula

Some days, I have an inordinate need for "grace." And by "grace," I mean the theological concept, but even more so, I mean my grandmother. A tiny, woman, "Mummi" gave hugs that felt like being pressed into a fluffy feather pillow.

Mummi lived with "Pappa" (grandfather) in a modest house next to a little grocery store. And thanks to that store, I'll always remember the visits we made to their home.

Upon our arrival, Mummi would grab me up in a hug and call me "her precious little thing" (even though there were many days my parents would disagree with that title). Then she would scurry me off to the kitchen to enjoy a special treat from that corner store next door.

My grandmother's name was Armi (grace in Finnish). While the great theologians like Martin Luther and St. Augustine have attempted to describe grace in powerful ways, the home of my grandmother provides the best image of all.

To me, grace is not necessarily a thing, but a place—a place of grounding and belonging where you feel special, like you are wrapped in a long hug and eating special treats.

We all need to find that place. Every day we are bombarded by voices from the outside and from inside our own hearts. We are assaulted by words that can tear us down, bend us over in shame. We need to find that place called grace.

As the nature awakens from its winter sleep, I invite you to think

(...continued on next page)

about people who need to hear from you. Perhaps a family member, friend, or partner needs your words. Maybe it's someone you haven't spoken to in a while, or maybe it's someone here at St. Philip's. Share kindness and love with someone to remind them of their divinity as a child of God.

While I miss sitting in Mummi's kitchen, her legacy lives on. And through that memory, I learned that living a life of love and beauty is not that hard, even in difficult times. It's all about recalling who we are. It's all about remembering from whence we came. It's all about finding a place called grace.

See you in church!
Pastor Tuula

Installation of Church Council

On **Sunday, April 21** members of our new Church Council were installed. Rev. Adam Snook preached the sermon and took part in the installation.



Executive Members:

Marcia Powers-Dunlop: Chair
Sandi Hanslep-LePage: Vice Chair
Gary Wuschnakowski: Treasurer
Sam Marcuson: Secretary

Members:

Andreae Holt
Ellen Gallipoli van Rensburg
Pat Lovell
Victoria Luciani
Jeff Macko
Perry Taylor

For a full listing of contact details, please pick up a copy of the 2024 Church Directory available for pickup in the narthex or contact the church office to have a copy mailed to you.

Finance Update

Finance Update (End of March 2023)

Please find below a financial update for the first quarter of 2024 (January to the end of March).

With three months (or 25%) of the year complete our spending is on budget with expenses of \$63,001 (21%) against income of \$52,900 or 18% of our approved budget of \$295,000.

As a result, at the end of March, we are currently running a deficit of just over \$10,000 which is approximately \$6,700 further in the red than this time last year.

These figures do not include donations from Easter which will be provided in the next financial report.

Some year-to-date financial numbers:

	2023 (March 31)	2024 (March 31)
Income	\$56,607	\$52,905
Expense	\$59,954	\$63,001
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(\$3,347)	(\$10,096)
Benevolence	\$6,145	\$4,930

As we move through spring please consider continuing to make your weekly donation.



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

Music Notes

As I write this, we are still in Easter mode, but working on some lovely new anthems. It is travelling season for many in the choir, however, and scheduling is proving to be a little tricky.

This April has been special in several ways. Among them, I discovered a remarkable performer and there was news of one of my former teachers.

1/ Young weirdly dressed British musician Jacob Collier is travelling worldwide, and one of his innovations is conducting audiences in concerts. The audience is divided into sections, given specific pitches to sing and then he moves his hand to change each pitch slowly up or down, according to the harmonies which are being explored. This was partly with the orchestra, and the piano, slow moving, rich in tone, and *I can't describe how moving and beautiful it was.*

If you ever have a chance to hear Jacob, go for it! His videos plus a couple of interviews are on YouTube. I was lucky to see him on PBS with a large TV screen - maximum impact.

2/ The second story is about teachers. You may know that Arthur Rubinstein gave his last major concert at 89. As well, many conductors have lived quite long lives.

But such longevity is not only for the famous. I have one former RCM colleague who has taken her musical career well into her 80's and is producing competition winners. Another musician, an early theory teacher of mine, taught Celtic and classical harp, piano, music theory, and history after an earlier career playing harp in major symphonies around the world. Carla gave up teaching just three years ago. She is now 102!

I'll leave you with these stories, and depending on your position on the age spectrum, you may think them irrelevant or you may consider them inspiring!

Have a great month of May, everyone!

50+

SPLC Book Club



We met on **April 10** to discuss the latest book, The President's Wife, by Tracey Enerson Wood.



We will meet **Wednesday, May 8 @ 1:00 pm** to discuss the next book, State of Terror, by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny.

On **Thursday, April 18** the group attended a black light show at Famous People Players Theatre, 343 Evans Ave. A delicious lunch was also enjoyed.

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



Guest Preacher

Rev. Adam Snook preached at St. Philip's on **Sunday, April 21, 2024.**

Please see page 7 for details on the next planned event.



Kitchen Upgrade

On **April 9** work began on our kitchen. Raija and Eunice have been working with contractors to upgrade the kitchen which includes new appliances, flooring, a new coat of paint and more. Costs are covered by the grant received. Below are some pictures of the work in progress.



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



After School Cooking for Kids

Just like the Good Food Market, we have brought the Neighbourhood Table to our neighbours at Willow Ridge. With the support of the Peter Gilgan Foundation, we are in the midst of a 6 week after school cooking program for 6 - 12 year olds. Chef Hassan is engaging kids in the joys of preparing fun nutritious meals. Families depart with a grocery gift card weekly. Our capacity is 24 children. The waitlist is almost another 24. Please come and join us on one of the remaining three Thursdays: **May 2, 9 or 16**.



Messy Church



On **Good Friday, March 29**, we continued the tradition of the Easter egg colouring activity. Thank you to all who participated and helped out with this fun and creative event!



Please mark your calendar for Messy Church on **Saturday, May 25 @ 4 - 6 pm**. We'll be getting messy outside (weather permitting), with a BBQ, parachute games, and an Olympic theme. Don't miss your last chance to get "messy" before the summer break! Everyone is welcome.

Please let us know if you plan to attend: stphilismessychurch@gmail.com

Dawn Pascoe

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: Tuesday, May 21, 28 @ 7:00 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81121527007?pwd=aVBicklvZ05LVjR3SmJETlpQTY9PZz09>; Meeting ID: 811 2152 7007; Passcode: 195026
Cover Girls: Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Choir Practice: Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm
SPLC Book Club: Wednesday, May 8 @ 1:00 pm
LAVS: May 10 @ 7:00 pm
50+ Thursday, May23 @ 12:15 pm
Messy Church: Saturday, May 25 @ 4:00 pm

50+ Spring luncheon
Speaker, Alzheimer's Society:
Brain Health for Seniors



May 23 @ 12:15 pm

Cost: \$10/per person
 Sign up by **May 19** using the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the church office at 41.622.5577.

Good food, fellowship, and fun!

Readings for May

6th Sunday of Easter – May 5
Acts 10:44-48/Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6/John 15:9-17

7th Sunday of Easter – May 12
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26/Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13/John 17:6-19

Pentecost Sunday – May 19
Acts 2:1-21/Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27/John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Trinity Sunday – May 26
Isaiah 6:1-8/Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17/John 3:1-17



Eastern Synod Assembly
Volunteers needed



Please see sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. We need stewards, ballot counters, greeters, help at hospitality desk, and also set-up/take down.

The conference runs from **June 20 - June 22**. It will be held at Delta Airport Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto.

You may also email Selina Broadshaw directly at selinajbroadshaw@hotmail.com.



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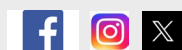
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Emeritus

Margaret Isaacs, Office Administrator
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'Friend' us [on Facebook](#)

Instagram: [@stphilipslutheran](#)

Twitter: [@SPLCOnline](#)



Bishop Michael Pryse



The bishop will preach on **Sunday, May 26.**

We will also receive new members to St. Philip's. If you would like to join our church, please contact the church office or speak with Pastor Tuula.



Next...

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