

April 2017

Life at St. Philip's

St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Toronto, ON

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Dates to Note:

April 5, 13: *Lenten Soup Suppers w/worship service*

April 6 – 50+ trip to Conservatory

April 9 – Palm Sunday

April 14 – Good Friday Service w/Lunch & Easter Egg Decorating

April 16 – Easter Sunday: 2 services

April 18 – SPLC Book Club

From Pastor Tuula.....

When my children were young, Holy Week was rather intense around our house, primarily because Mom was working a lot and we all spent quite a bit of time at church. To try to keep things straight, I used to review the plans of each day over and over with anyone who would listen. One day I was talking about our plans and reviewing in detail what we would be doing during Holy Week.

I was well into the Easter Sunday, when my young daughter interrupted me. "Isn't Friday the day we think about Jesus dying on the cross? Isn't that day called Good Friday?" "Yes," I said, moving into the topic of what children might be expected to wear to church on Easter Sunday.

She spoke up: "Well, what I don't understand is why they call it GOOD Friday if that's the day Jesus died. I think they should call it BAD Friday!"

I began racking my brain for any recollection of why we call it Good Friday, recognizing that my daughter had a pretty valid point.

Later I did some research and found that we call it Good Friday probably because of the development of the English language over time. In Germany they call it *Karfreitag*, Mourning Friday, which seems to make more sense. In Finland, it

is *Pitkaperjantai*, which means Long Friday. Some are of the opinion that there was a time in the history of the English language when "good" meant "holy", which would make it "Holy Friday". Still others think it was originally referred to as "God's Friday" and, over time someone added another "o". And then there are those who believe it is not an etymological issue at all but more likely a theological statement: great good came to be from the tragedy of that Friday.

I didn't know all of this when my young daughter and I were talking, but that is in essence what I told her. I said that as Christians we believe Jesus came to be our Saviour and he demonstrated the ultimate love by showing us that some things are worth dying for. To recognize that gift, we call the day Good Friday. My daughter responded: "Well I guess I can see why they might call it Good Friday. But I still think it's sad. Do you think it would be okay if I called it Pretty Good Friday?" I told her I thought that would be perfectly fine.

Hope this year you find some moments of forgiveness, grace and hope during Holy Week and especially on *Pretty Good Friday*.

*See you in church,
Pastor Tuula*

From the Parish Nurse.....

Psalm 16:11 states: "In thy presence is fullness of joy."

In recent years scientists have stated that inflammation may be a contributor to the root cause of chronic disease. Others have stated that genes are the main culprit of disease. Genes, though, aren't the only contributor towards sickness and disease.

Anxiety, poor eating habits, and lack of exercise can affect the way genes respond. Other factors such as lack of meaningful relationships, lack of sleep, lack of meaningful activities, and poor ways of handling stress are also contributing factors. In other words, we all have to take personal responsibility for our own health

despite our genetic makeup.

People who have a personal faith in God, read their bible, spend time with other believers generally recover quicker. Scientists and theologians are now starting to agree that it may have to do with mind, body and spirit working together to produce wholeness and health. I have observed that those who live with a peaceful attitude and are generally optimistic become more resilient to stress in its many forms and are able to do all that they are meant to accomplish in this life.

If you have any questions please feel to contact me by email or phone.

Blessings, Marisa

Marisa will be on holidays from April 21 to May 7 and May 29 to June 10.

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Please feel free to call/email Marisa to talk or to arrange a visit.

647-523-5540  
stphilipnurse@bellnet.ca

## God Moments.....

*Our 2017 Lenten Theme is "Where is God?" Different individuals answer that question from their viewpoint at Wednesday evening services during Lent. Here is how Melissa Veniot answered the question on March 15<sup>th</sup>. (Thanks for sharing, Melissa.)*

**1 Corinthians 13:1** "When I was a child, my talk, feelings, understanding and thinking were all those of a child. Now I am grown I have no use for childish ways. What we see now is like the dim image in a mirror, then we shall see face to face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete, as complete as God's knowledge of me. Meanwhile, these three remain: faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love."

In this verse, Paul was speaking about how things change, and are "done away with". In this, he used a "growing up" metaphor

to explain how certain things change over time as you grow out of childhood. It isn't a command, but an example of how real life is. When you're a child, you do certain things because it's the way you've been taught to be and live, and it was also the way your brain could "reason" at that age. Things change, and you learn and grow from your experiences, specifically within yourself and your faith.

When Pastor Tuula asked me to do this short talk, my first reaction was, "I can't stand up in church and talk about my experiences with God in front of everyone". Well guess what, I'm here thanks to everyone who believed in me and my ability to communicate my faith. God is my greatest cheerleader and with God anything is possible.

*Continued on page 3*

### Compassionate Leave:

Pastor Tuula will be in Finland early April returning for Maundy Thursday and the remaining services in Holy Week.



Pastor Tuula will be on holidays from April 25 to May 4

**God Moments (cont'd)....**

*"Everything you experience is in His plan, and when you realize this, you shouldn't be afraid and remember, God is always with you."*

*Melissa*

I experienced God at CLAY in PEI, though all the people there who shared the same faith as me. I understood more about my connection with God and grew a stronger bond with my faith while there. Going to Confirmation Camp every year strengthens my understanding of God through worship services, speaking with my peers, and learning through all the wonderful pastors there. Each year my understanding and connection to God deepens as I attend worship services and learn from others around me who have many years of growing in God's family.

outside spreading His beauty on the earth and reminding me of His presence everywhere.

People often ask "where is God" when bad things happen such as when a loved one is in the hospital, or a natural disaster happens such as an earthquake, but no one seems to stop and think that God is with you when the good things happen such as you pass an exam, a surgery goes well, you hit all your notes for the big performance, or you finally get your driver's license after 10 years. There might be some bumps in the road, but God will always be with you through your ups and downs.

Everything you experience is in His plan and when you realize this, you shouldn't be afraid and remember, God is always with you.

*Melissa Veniot*



Cover Girl, Kathy Dragert, works on matching squares for a colourful "crazy" quilt.

I found God in my faith statement on Confirmation day and in all the people who supported me on that day. I find God in every new experience: a new friend, a baby, or in a time of need, a word of encouragement. I see God in nature: watching the snow fall

**Healing Station.....**



The ministry of Jesus included praying for all the needs of the people. This included prayers for healing of the body, soul, and spirit. Every need was important to our loving Saviour.

We plan to have "Healing Stations" the first Sunday of each month. To do this, we need volunteers who would like to assist with praying for those who have needs during the time of communion.

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board and you will be contacted for training. Thank you.

**50+.....**

Pastor Nadine Nicholds was the guest speaker at the March event. She spoke of her trip to Iceland.

On April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm we will eat lunch together at the church before heading out to the Centennial Park Conservatory to view the permanent plant collection, and the stunning seasonal flower show ready for Easter. Some walking will be necessary, but walkers are welcome and there are benches available for sitting. You will be back at the church by 2:30 pm.

Please bring your own lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board so that we may arrange transportation.

Pastor Nadine Nicholds at 50+ March Event



# World Day of Prayer..... Newcomer's Luncheon.....

On Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> The World Day of Prayer took place at Islington United Church.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer.

On this day we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and engage with the whole world. We are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures and share the burdens of other people by praying with them and for them, and use our own talents in the service of God's world. Prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world.

This year's theme, "Am I Being Unfair To You?" was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of The Philippines.



Janice and Arlene are pictured above with Cynia Baculio and Grace Quimno. The red scarves were made especially for the event and the material will no doubt be turned into quilts!

*Margaret Isaacs*

On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, St. Philip's held a luncheon for our sponsored family offering a chance for all of us to catch up with the members of the family and those serving on the refugee committees. So much has happened since their arrival in August. We are happy to report that the family is thriving and settling in very well.



Pictured above is the Qasim family with volunteers from the Refugee Committee of both St. Philip's and Augsburg Lutheran churches.



Above: The luncheon was a potluck – there was so much food!

Below: Mike adjusts Sarah's helmet!



## Your 2017 Council

### Executive:

#### Chair:

Les Piller

#### Vice-Chair:

Eunice Hogeveen

#### Secretary:

Elisabeth van Rensburg

### Members:

Karen Adolph  
Anne Bindernagel

Andrew Davies

Bonnie Erlandson

Samantha Gauthier

Marcia Powers-Dunlop

Chris Suknundun

Emily Walker



### Vision:

Implementing the new vision for St. Philip's is a priority for 2017.

Family Service:  
Sunday,  
April 30<sup>th</sup>

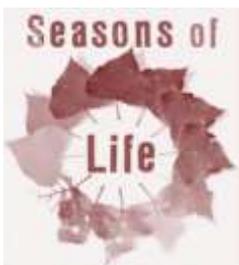
**Funerals:**

Helmi Vainio  
1925 – 2017  
March 12<sup>th</sup> @  
Chapel at  
Harmony Hills

Erika Szabo  
1932 – 2017  
March 13<sup>th</sup> @  
Pine Hills Funeral  
Centre

Greta Davies  
1933 – 2017  
March 24<sup>th</sup> @ St.  
Philip's Lutheran  
Church

Terttu Hotari  
1938 – 2017  
March 25<sup>th</sup> @ St.  
Philip's Lutheran  
Church



**SPY.....**

The youth provided an excellent Pancake Supper on February 28<sup>th</sup>!

Pictured below l - r: Alicia, Melissa, Sarah, Jessica, and Emily.



The youth have taken orders for Easter Flowers as a fundraiser to help send participants to the CLAY event in 2018. Delivery is anticipated for Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at which time you can pick up your order. They will also be available on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

We are planning a movie event on the evening of Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Friends and family are welcome. The movie is, "The Shack". The movie is rated PG13. A man meets up with God after his child is kidnapped. It is interesting and fun to see how God appears to him and tries to connect and help him on his journey of life. It also might get you thinking about how you like to relate to God in your life or what questions you would like God to answer.

We hope you can make it. We will be in touch with more details soon. Remember, Sat. April 1, evening...check out the trailer!

*Anne Bindernagel*

**Sunday School.....**

There will be Sunday School on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Children will remain in service on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.



**Egg Decorating.....**

Lunch and Easter Egg Decorating  
@ 12:00 pm  
April 14



Come join us **Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** for a simple lunch and egg colouring. Please bring your own hard boiled eggs. Lunch is provided.

This is for all ages. Bring the family, or come alone.

Please sign up so we know how many to expect for lunch! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Cost: Freewill offering.

## St. Philip's Lutheran Church

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### Office is usually open

Monday - Friday mornings  
9 - 12

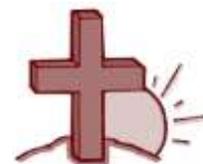
### We're on the Web!

www.stphilipstoronto.com  
Like us on Facebook.  
Twitter @SPLCOnline

## Next Issue of LIFE...

Please submit articles for the next newsletter by April 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

## Mark your calendar.....



### Lenten Soup Suppers



Suppers continue **Wednesday, April 5** and **Maundy Thursday, April 13 @6:00 pm.**

Worship services will follow @ 7:00 pm.

### 50 + Luncheon

Bring your lunch and eat with the group. Then enjoy a trip to Centennial Park Conservatory on **Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm.**

### Good Friday with Lunch and Egg Decorating

Worship service begins @ **11:00 am.** Lunch and Egg Decorating will start @ **12:00 pm.** All ages welcome. Please sign up. See page 5 for more details.

### Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

**Sunrise** service (**6:33 am**) at Centennial Park.

**10:00 am** service in the Sanctuary.



### SPLC Book Club

Please meet in the Choir Room to discuss the latest book, Brain on Fire, by Susannah Cahalan on **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 pm.**

### Save the Date: Music for Mark, May 7 @ 7pm

A benefit concert with Heather Bambrick and other friends of Mark performing. Details to follow.

## 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.*

