

LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

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Save the Dates:

Mar. 2 – World Day of Prayer

Mar. 5 – Pancake Supper

Mar. 6 – Soup Supper & Service of Ashes

Mar. 19 – SPLC Book Club

Mar. 25 – LIFE newsletter deadline

Mar. 28 – Council

Mar. 31 – Lunch & Learn - Human Trafficking



From Pastor Tuula ...

Welcome to Lent!

Contrary to what you might have been told, Lent does not mean "40 days of beating yourself up." It does not even mean "40 days of God beating you up and reminding you of what kind of a person you really are."

Lent is short for "lengthen." Someone, somewhere noticed that (at least in this hemisphere) the season of Lent was accompanied by the lengthening of the days. Lent actually means spring.

It had been a long, hard, cold and icy winter that year. Then one day I saw grass! It was at a cemetery during a committal service for a woman who was known for her unconditional love and acceptance of everyone she knew. She was also beautiful. Her youngest daughter was one of the speakers at the funeral, and she said that when she was a teenager she found herself at church one Sunday. She looked over to the choir, where her mother was

singing, and she thought, "My mother is beautiful." (If you think that when you are a teenager, she said, you know it's true.)

For her, lent meant love.

Lent also means that the days are getting longer, and the ground is getting softer, even if some of that ground is still hidden under snow. Lent means that something is changing, and our priorities will change too, sometimes whether we like it or not. Soon the reign of weather will begin for farmers: they will need to be ready to plant on the days when they can plant and willing to wait on the days when the weather does not cooperate.

Many of us think of Lent as a season of self-examination and self-denial. I didn't grow up with the idea of "giving things up" for Lent, but I have learned to assume the dreariness as an adult. For me, there is the work of a pastor during Lent. Holy Week is immovable, even if you have funerals that same week. Somehow, priorities change. You give things up in order to grieve and speak a word of hope to people at a funeral. You realize that relationships are important, and that, all appearances to the contrary, there is an awful lot of life you have no control over.

Lent also means lengthening days, opening the windows, letting in life and death, the things we can't control. It means going to the cemetery and standing in the mud and grass, where the pain and the hope are all mixed up together.

Lent means spring!

See you in church,
Pastor Tuula

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR PROJECT

St. Philip's Lutheran Church is partnering with Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI) to participate in a "Meet Your Neighbour" Project. The project is designed to give participants the opportunity to experience special and sacred



observances of other faiths while sharing a dinner.

These encounters take place in family settings with a home cooked meal, which provides perfect setting for learning about other faiths and cultures.

This initiative aims to provide space for people of differing religious and cultural traditions to get to know one another and to build community through sharing between members of the various faith and cultural traditions throughout Canada.

The program further seeks to spearhead the grassroots effort to rid our communities of intolerance and fear and to foster understanding and respect.

We are excited to be part of this initiative and are currently seeking families within St. Philip's community to invite and host a Muslim family for a meal either on Palm Sunday (April 14) or Easter Sunday (April 21), 2019.

If you are interested in participating, or have questions, please contact Pastor Tuula.

IDI (Intercultural Dialogue Institute) is hosting an Iftar Dinner at St. Philip's on May 30, 2019, during the holy month of Ramadan.

Youth Events

Here's an update from our youth:

Last month, the youth went to Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp for a weekend retreat with three other churches and learned about finding joy.

We then brought back a fundraiser to spread a little joy within St. Phillips - selling Warm and Fuzzy notes, which will be delivered on March 9.

We are looking forward to our next event of rock climbing later this month!

We also wanted to take the opportunity to invite you to our annual Pancake Tuesday dinner on March 5. There will be a freewill offering (suggested minimum donation of \$5). We hope to see you there!

-Sarah McCutcheon, Emily Savage, and Lauren Voorpostel

Captured!

Spring is on tap and here at St. Philip's, that means letting go of all things winter. February was a slow-yet-quick month, and that didn't stop our resident shutterbug from snapping away. Here are some of the lovely images sent in by Janice Rouse.



ABOVE: There was a Lunch and Learn Q&A on medical cannabis on Feb. 24 which provided a general overview of medical cannabis and how to access the program, with a pharmacist, Georgia, and a speaker, Rose, from National Access Cannabis Medical.

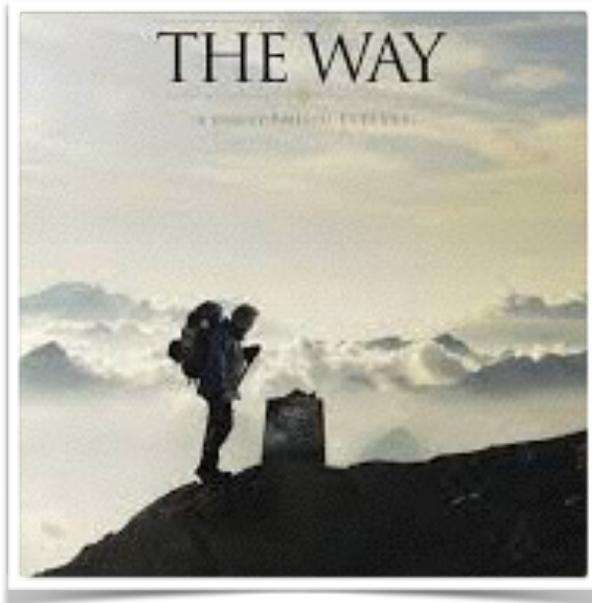
RIGHT: Two retiring Council members, Bonnie Erlandson and Karen Adolph, are with Council chair Marcia Powers Dunlop (who remains).



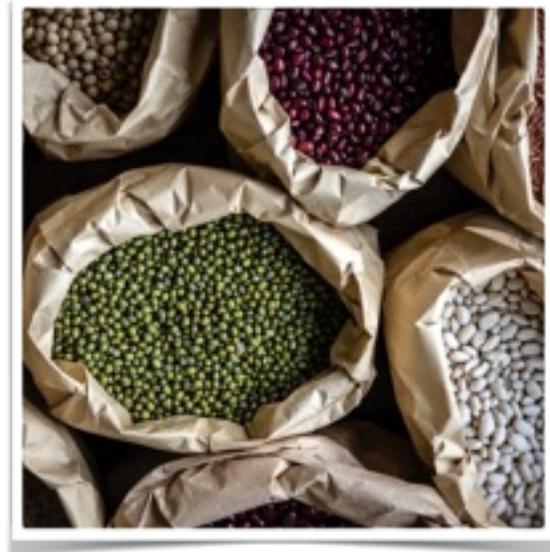
New Council Executive

The election results are in! Please feel free to discuss your concerns with any of the following Church Council members:

- Marcia Powers-Dunlop, Chair
- Donna Schwantes, Vice Chair
- Sarah Pascoe, Secretary
- Alan (Treasurer), Anne Bindernagel, Andrew Davies, Sam Marcuson, Peter Marsh, Paul Noack, Stephanie Roche, Jim Rouse, Melissa Veniot, Tina Werner (Dash).



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is happening right here at St. Philip's on Sat. March 2 at 11 a.m. This year the service has been written by the women of Slovenia. The theme is "Come - Everything is Ready," based on the parable about a banquet written in Luke 14. The service is interwoven with an authentic Slovenian light lunch. Please bring a donation for St. James Food Bank. Suggestions: tinned fish, rice, legumes, cereal, or toiletry items. Thank you!



LENTEN STUDY

MONDAYS @ 2:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. from March 11 until April 8, 2019.

Join us as we journey through the movie, The Way.

The story involves a California doctor named Tom whose son Daniel dies while attempting to complete the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James), a centuries-old pilgrimage over Spanish mountain country to the Cathedral de Santiago. Daniel was apparently religious. Tom is definitely not. He flies to Spain to identify his son's body, oversees its cremation and decides on the spot to scatter the ashes along the Way that Daniel planned to trek.

50+

Join us **Thursday, March 14 @ 12 p.m.** 50+ Irish Stew luncheon with speaker, "Life in Iona Community" with Rev. W. McDougall.

He will speak to his experiences with the Iona Community.

Please sign up to attend!



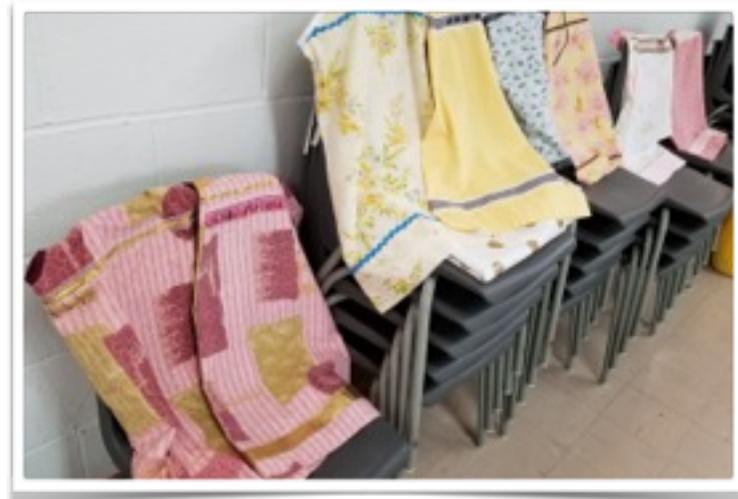
ABOVE: Victoria Mlynko spoke to the 50+ about maintaining good mental health in later life.

BELOW: Beautiful dresses crafted from pillow cases were made by one of our talented Cover Girls, Margaret.



SPLC Book Club

Please join us on Tuesday, Mar. 19 at 12:30 p.m. to review the latest book. We welcome new members at any time!



March at a Glance

Can you believe March is here? There are plenty of events in store at St. Philip's. Please join us on the following dates:

Mar. 5: A pancake supper will be held at 6 p.m. with freewill offering.

Mar. 6: Soup Supper and Service of Ashes at 6 p.m.

Mar. 11: Lenten Bible Study begins.

Mar. 14: 50+ Irish Stew luncheon with speaker, Rev. W. McDougall at noon.

Mar. 28: Council @ 7 p.m.

Mar. 25: LIFE newsletter deadline.

Mar. 31: Lunch 'n' Learn - Human Trafficking.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Carol and John Stewart were married by Rev. Bob Binhammer 50 years ago on March 15.

WEDDING BELLS

Sylvia Fil and Adam Buzek were wed on Feb. 2, 2019, in Toronto.

Congratulations to both couples!

Parable Quest: Please join us on Sundays for a wonderful Sunday School program. We have many teachers who are keen to make Sunday School a fun and educational experience. Weekly at **10:15 a.m.** with family services on the last Sunday of the month.



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from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Contextual Placement Students

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'Friend' us on Facebook.

Instagram/Twitter: @SPLCOnline

**EVANGEL HALL COMMUNITY DINNER -
SUNDAY, APR. 7, 2019. HELP NEEDED IN
MEAL PREP (at St. Philip's) AND SERVING (at
Evangel Hall).**

Evangel Hall Mission represents extended family for many of their guests. Sunday community dinners are "family dinners." We are responsible for preparing and serving up to 120 meals. Individuals are served at their tables extending hospitality and dignity to the diners. The Sunday dinner is followed by worship service. Please consider donating your time or money for this opportunity! For more information or to sign-up, please speak (or email) to Pastor Tuula or Paul Noack (416.626.8620).

Next issue of LIFE

**Please submit articles for the next issue of LIFE
by March 25 ... send good news to
rochekel@gmail.com**

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.