

LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

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Save the Dates:

June 9 – Church Picnic/BBQ

June 12 – SPLC Book Club

June 13 – 50+ Pizza;
Council

June 24 – LIFE newsletter
deadline

June 23 – PRIDE Event
(Youth); CLWR International
Refugee Day Event

June 30 – Family PRIDE
Worship



From Pastor Tuula ...

It is officially the beginning of "summertime," that time of year when many of us can begin to live a little easier. The sky is filled with light until very late in the evening; we like to think days are longer and we can get more done. I am hoping to take advantage of these long days, to take walks in the evening, and try to relax a little more in the light of longer days, later sunsets, and quiet twilights.

Even our church schedule shifts into summer after Pentecost on June 9. We say thank you and goodbye to our Choir, Joyful Noise Bells, Sunday School, and other regular activities for the summer, and we welcome Neighbourhood Table, Good Food Market, Camp, and other special summer programs.

Maybe the recent events in my personal and professional life have affected me, since I have noticed a shift in my thinking about time: ♦ I used to think I had all the time in the world and not much to do. Now I notice myself thinking there's less of it left, but so much

more I want to do.

- ✦ I find myself looking at medical professionals thinking, "They can't be old enough to treat me."
- ✦ I catch myself becoming impatient because I can't seem to read all the books I want to read, see the movies I would like to see, or even sort out the papers in my office, or answer emails fast enough. There is simply too much to do and not enough time to do it.

My friend Jane had cancer with poor prognosis. During the last months of her life we talked on the phone quite often. She spoke eloquently and wisely about life, and often said words I will treasure forever. Jane once said there is so little time to tell everyone she loved that she did, indeed, love them. So little time for the world to come to terms with its own need for love. Not enough time left in her own life to be loved and held and affirmed in all the ways she had dreamed of. There is so little time for telling those I love that I love them. There is so little time to press for justice and love in a world gone haywire with cynicism and greed.

I recommend the 1997 movie *Love! Valor! Compassion!* for your summer viewing. It is about eight men who meet over the length of one summer. One of them is sick and has a fear bigger than the fear of dying. He does not want to face death alone. He meets his friend on the steps of the old house. In the deep quiet of a late summer night, the two friends have a conversation about friendship and the renewal of our spirits by the power of love and the gift of compassion. Buzz tells Arthur he is not afraid of pain, or even of the dying of the physical body. He wants to know only that he is loved and that he will not die alone. His friend Arthur promises to be there. In that beautiful moment Buzz's spirit is renewed for more life through the promise of the presence of love.

Summertime is perfect for some rethinking and resetting of life's priorities. It provides us with a wonderful opportunity to reclaim for ourselves God's purpose for our living.

See you in church,
Pastor Tuula

Council Update

Council met on May 9. Pastor was on vacation but had submitted a written report. Easter services were well attended this year. We are thankful that Sarah McCutcheon was able to work in the office while Margaret was on vacation. We have seven youth and Pastor attending Youth Camp (formerly



known as Confirmation Camp) in August. Financial help is available to those who need it. There was a proposal to do another Photo Directory this year and after discussion the council decided not to proceed. The Council Retreat that had been planned for late May has been postponed and will take place at a later date. The United Church of God has found another space to rent and will not be moving to St. Philip's. The Social Committee has picked June 9 for our Annual Picnic. Victoria is helping to advertise it and work with the Youth to provide activities. Council would like to see the weekly attendance listed in the Bulletin and quarterly a summary of givings. Victoria and Andrew provided an update of the Neighbourhood Table, which will include the Good Food Market and be held at the church on Thursdays this summer. Victoria updated us on a Parent Cue app that would have online faith formation sessions. We discussed the sound system and are still assessing and exploring video screens for the church. -Marcia Powers-Dunlop

Life Passages

GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD Our beloved Janice Rouse (October 15, 1946 - May 4, 2019) passed away peacefully at Dorothy Ley Hospice at the age of 72. A funeral was held on May 8. Jim, Ted and Shannon, and Lynne are in our hearts. [Donations can be made](#) in lieu of flowers.



GRADUATION & WEDDING Tuula and Gary's daughter, Sarah, graduated from medical school on May 11 and married Miles Slinde on May 18. What a week ... Congratulations to the happy couple!

HATS OFF TO THE NEW GRADS

- ◆ Angela Noble (York University)
- ◆ Melissa Veniot (Martingrove Collegiate Institute)
- ◆ Emily Walker (Etobicoke Collegiate Institute)

MEET BABY FINN Tuula's daughter-in-law delivered a baby boy, Phineas (Finn). The son of Harald and Christy Van Gaasbeek was born in Fort Collins, Colorado on May 8. Key stats: 8 lbs., 2 oz., 21 inches. The name Phineas was chosen to honour their Finnish roots. Mom, dad and baby Finn are doing very well!



Captured!

Our Youth hosted the Pix in the 6ix Scavenger Hunt on May 4 and had tons of fun using the TTC's Line 1 and Line 2. They were given a list of riddles to solve and points scored them prizes. The subway was used to explore and learn about life in the downtown core.



On May 9, 13 members of the 50+ group got to participate in a unique guided tour of the Junction Shul. It's considered the oldest orthodox Toronto synagogue and is still in use. We were lucky enough to check out all aspects of the building, were shown many interesting items used in worship, and really appreciated learning how this synagogue came into being in the early 1900s and how it has adapted to modern times. It was a truly interesting and enjoyable experience! -Doris Pascoe



Gratitude & Kindness

Julie Potocny is sharing her response to Pastor Tuula's column on prayer in the May newsletter, which began with: "Does prayer work? That's the question many people ask me when they perceive that God is not answering their prayers. There are other questions that surface also: Is prayer worthwhile? Does it change anything? Am I talking to myself? Does God care about my prayers? ... "

Julie writes, "my prayer life has carried me through many situations in my life." Do you agree with Julie? What are your thoughts on the Power of Prayer?

The Power Of Prayer

*The day was long, the burden I had borne
Seemed heavier than I could longer bear,
And then it lifted—but I did not know
Some one had knelt in prayer;
Had taken me to God that very hour,
And asked the easing of the load, and He,
In infinite compassion, had stooped down
And taken it from me. *
We cannot tell how often as we pray
For some bewildered one, hart and distressed,
The answer comes, but many times those hearts
Find sudden peace and rest.
Some one had prayed, and Faith, a reaching hand,
Took hold of God, and brought Him down that day!
So many, many hearts have need of prayer:
Oh, let us pray!*

50+

Join us **Thursday, June 13 @ 12 p.m.** 50+ Pizza and Planning.

We really need your help in brainstorming ideas for future 50+ events in the coming year (topics of interest, speakers, outings, etc.). We want to keep our group going, but need your ideas. Thanks in advance for all suggestions! -Doris Pascoe

Please sign up to attend and/or arrange carpooling!

Eleonore is 92-years-young!

The Cover Girls were caught celebrating Eleonore's 92nd birthday. Her actual birthday is May 28, 1927. The Cover Girls met on May 29 for cake and a grand time in Fellowship Hall. Happy belated birthday!



SPLC Book Club

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

Seniors' Gentle Fitness is back

Fitness classes with Julia Gall will run in June and July, then return in mid-September. They're held on Mondays from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Cost: \$10 for 4 classes.

June at a Glance

Glorious June sunshine is upon us! Summer is unofficially here, and there are plenty of events in store at St. Philip's. Please join us on the following dates:

June 9: Church Picnic/BBQ

June 12: SPLC Book Club

June 13: 50+ Pizza @ 12 p.m.; Council @ 7 p.m.

June 23: PRIDE Event (Youth); CLWR International Refugee Day Event

June 30: Family PRIDE Worship



The Good Food Market & The Neighbourhood Table 2019

We're looking forward to blending two of our popular summer initiatives, The Good Food Market and The Neighbourhood Table, into one weekly on-site program at St. Philip's. As you may know, this important project seeks to address issues of food security in our immediate neighbourhood, particularly concerning access to fresh, affordable, culturally relevant produce for families who are new to Canada. A key partner and community stakeholder for this project is the [Arab Community Centre](#), and we're delighted to continue our collaboration this summer. The market is on church property this year. **COOKING** The main kitchen program focuses on engaging children through experiential learning about healthy recipes, cooking skills and food literacy. Mom-focused kitchen programming is new this year, too, centred on nutritional education and budget-conscious healthy food. Like last year, we'll offer additional activities for children on event days to enrich their experience and broaden their learning. This combined program will run for 8 Thursday afternoons from July 4 until Aug. 23. Each Thursday will end with a community meal at 6 p.m.



A NEW HIRE Thanks to a federal government grant, we're delighted to welcome a summer student to fill the Community Outreach Coordinator position at St. Philip's, and support the implementation of our Neighbourhood Table 2019 project. A separate announcement will introduce this new team member. The project team is currently in planning stages and we're looking forward to a great summer of fun, learning, community connection and of course, FOOD!

CALLING VOLUNTEERS The success of this program relies on the skills and commitment of volunteers. We'll need at least 10 volunteers on each of the 8 Thursdays. Please watch for sign-up sheets on the church's bulletin board or contact me directly. Thank you! -Victoria Mlynko

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'Friend' us on Facebook.

Instagram/Twitter: @SPLCOnline

UN World Refugee Day - June 20

St. Philip's is observing World Refugee Day on Sunday, June 23. That's when Pauline Klemencic, a CLWR board member, will lead us in the *Forced to Flee* exercise immediately after worship in Fellowship Hall. It's designed by Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Volunteers are needed to host lemonade each Sunday after service from July 7 until Sept. 8. Two people are required per week. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

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.

Next issue of LIFE

Please submit articles and photos for the next issue of LIFE by June 24 ... send good news to Kelly at 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.