LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

In This Issue:

Council Corner – 2

Kitchen Upgrade – 3

Music Notes – 3

50+ / SPLC Book Club – 4

Thank you: Grace Lutheran – 4

Community Programs / Wedding Announcement – 5

Messy Church – 6

Schedule / Bishop Pryse – 7

DATES OF NOTE:

June 4, 11, 18, 25 – June Bible Study on Zoom

June 5, 12, 19, 26 – Good Food Market

June 12 – SPLC Book Club

June 13 – 50+ Pizza Lunch

June 20 - 22 – Eastern Synod Conference

June 23 – Summer BBQ Picnic

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday to Friday: 9 - 12

(June, July, August)

From Pastor Tuula

Much of the meaning we find in our personal lives stems from contributions by people we often neglect to thank. Bishop Michael Pryse, during his visit to St. Philip's on May 26, commented on how gifted and talented our musicians are. He reminded me that they are often the unsung heroes of worship. Gifted musicians know how to help people sing together. They're genius at helping a congregation get "lost in wonder, love, and praise," to borrow Charles Wesley's words, without simply getting lost. They enlarge individual worlds, send chills up spines, and remind us in the pews that singing is not an external option for our lives; it's an internal component of being fully human.

Every time a congregation gathers, a new community forms. Even if the group just met the previous week, its character has changed. Bodies have aged, however slightly. New joys have walked in the door. Fresh sorrows have settled into a back pew. Two voices from the choir are missing. An elder has died. A baby gets introduced. People are whispering. One of the spotlights above the altar is flickering annoyingly.

It's the musicians who pay attention to all the nuances of this new community. They have the job of listening closely to everything that's going on. This is hard work that requires no small degree of faith, skill, and humility. But when it's successful, a bonding of people will occur. A sense of mystery will fill up the interior dimensions of people's lives. Those who thought they couldn't sing, or who don't want to sing, suddenly find themselves enveloped in lovely ways by the resonant voice of the church singing together.

Musicians — whether lean into an organ, lead a band, play an

(…continued on next page)

instrument or direct a choir—are theologians in their own right. They work for the congregation to find its voice, hoping for each person to discover that singing is sacred duty. The talent of their hands, feet, and vocal cords may be awesome and beautiful, but the way they deploy their abilities determines whether the rest of us feel bigger or smaller than when we arrived.

Eugene Peterson suggests that song is the result of excess energy. "When we are normal, we talk," says Peterson. "When we are dying, we whisper. But when there is more in us than we can contain, we sing."

I encourage you to attend our outdoor worship services this summer. You might find yourself experiencing more joy than you can hold inside yourself. It is also so much easier to sing like your life depends on it when you are outdoors! And then, let the musicians know of your gratitude.

See you in church this summer, Pastor Tuula

Council Corner

Grace Lutheran Church in Oakville has closed and has very generously given funds to St Philip's to further our help with Outreach projects such as the Good Food Market and Neighbourhood Table and our Refugee Initiatives. We are deeply grateful for these gifts and will use these Special Funds wisely.

As we all know expenses and costs are increasing and as our Treasurer has told us, donations have not increased as rapidly. We are fortunate to have the space we do, yet it sits empty much of the time. Council has looked at ways that align with our Vision and Mission to provide support in the community and to add to our source of revenue. Over the last year the Council has met with representatives from Synod to learn about projects other churches are doing as well as reaching out to other churches in our community to learn what programs they have to support outreach to the community. As previously shared, a Redevelopment Committee with Jerry Hogeveen as Chair was struck to pursue various possibilities to explore what we might initiate.

For the last 18 months we have been speaking with Eco Kids Preschool, a local day care provider, looking for space to expand. Partnering with them would help alleviate a shortage of day care spaces in the community and utilize our space and yard to a greater extent in addition to providing an income stream. Council authorized the Redevelopment Committee to prepare a suitable draft lease for submission to Eco Kids.

A second exciting opportunity has arisen to welcome and partner with a Spanish speaking Mission Congregation and a Community Services Hub to provide help with navigating immigration issues, medical, legal, and government services. Carmen Ramirez, a member of St. Philip's, would be the pastor and organizer. Synod is very supportive of this initiative and work has begun on applying for start-up grants. Council authorized the Redevelopment Committee to meet with Carmen to gather more information about the project, understand the terms of the grant, and demonstrate our initial support for it.

Both of these initiatives are still in the information gathering and planning stages. When a more formal proposal for each initiative is developed it will be shared with you.

If you are interested in being part of the Redevelopment Committee please speak to Jerry Hogeveen. As always, you can speak with any member of the Council and share your thoughts on moving forward with initiatives like these. These are big decisions and will require some changes in how we work. You are an important part of this move into the future and we want to hear from you.

Marcia Powers-Dunlop, Chair

Kitchen Upgrade

Our kitchen upgrade began **April 9** thanks to a grant from the government of Canada. Under the leadership of Raija Koski-Bruce and Eunice Hogeveen orders were made for appliances and for contractors to complete the work including flooring and the installation of a working ventilation system and amped up electrical panel to make our kitchen more of an industrial one.

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

Music Notes

It has been a very full and interesting eight months at St. Philip's for me as I am beginning to know everyone and participate in your worship each week.

I very much appreciate the variety of the services, and the thoughtfulness and commitment of clergy, congregation, and musicians. Initiatives like "messy church" are fun and new to me and I look forward to participating more as time goes on.

Choir Practice:
Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm

St. Philip's is a lively church with great outreach and support for the community, as well as for its members. I have also found it wonderful to be part of a community church and not a 'destination church' with members living in many disparate parts of Toronto and meeting on Sundays, which was my previous experience.

A great shout out to our loyal and talented choir members and also to the NFA Band, who add so much to services with their beautiful voices, wonderful harmonies, and lively renderings.

The choir will suspend its participation for summer on **June 16** and we have already begun rehearsal on some music for the autumn season. And by the way, there will always be a welcome for congregation members who enjoy singing but would appreciate a new outlet!

Thank you for your kindness, support, and appreciation, and have a wonderful summer!

Karen Quinton

50+

On **Thursday, May 23** we had a lovely lunch of salads and sandwiches while hearing from Laura McGill, a speaker of the Alzheimer's Society who spoke to brain health for seniors.

You will notice from the photo above that we now have a full projector screen permanently placed in our Fellowship Hall.

Several brochures from the Alzheimer's Society were distributed and are available for pick up in the narthex.

50+
End of Year Planning Lunch

June 13 @ 12:15 pm

Sign up by **June 9** using the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the church office at 416.622.5577.

Good food, fellowship, and fun!

SPLC Book Club

We met on **May 8** to discuss the latest book, State of Terror, by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny. We enjoyed refreshments and a lively discussion.

We will meet again on **June 12** to discuss, The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah.

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

Thank you to Grace Lutheran Church

On **Sunday, May 26** we formally thanked the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church, Oakville for their monetary donations to our programs at St. Philip's. An exclusive slideshow was presented during worship service.

In particular we received funds to aid in our refugee resettlement program and to aid in our community programs with the Good Food Market and Neighbourhood Table. Please see next page (p. 5) for details on these two programs.

Community Programs

What's OUR WHY?

Good Food Market
St. Philip's Lutheran Church

We are busy getting our market supplies organized, placing our produce orders, signing up volunteers, printing price signage, planning recipes etc. etc. It seems just the crucial moment to avoid getting caught up with the 'to do's' at the risk of crystallizing OUR WHY.

OUR WHY is a response to Jesus saying, 'follow me'. Follow me into the neighbourhoods. Following means loving what God loves. Loving means seeking the good of as many as possible.

OUR WHY as we head to Willow Ridge and deliver programs for neighbours at the church is to find out what God's love is up to this summer of 2024. We go with open hearts and eyes and hands to see how we can be part of what God is doing. How can we seek the good of as many possible?

Come with us. Follow Jesus into the neighbourhood**. The Good Food Market will run from 4 - 6 pm every Wednesday** for 14 weeks from **May 29 - August 28.**

The Neighbourhood Table will be held for 6 Tuesdays from **July 9 - August 13**. It's all about OUR WHY to love what God loves. There are many ways to be part of what God is doing.

Jennelle Rock is back as our Community Outreach Coordinator. She worked with us last summer.

Please reach out and join the excitement in following Jesus this summer.

You can reach Jennelle at 647.523.0383 or email her at etobicokegoodfoodmarket@gmail.com.

Eunice Hogeveen

Wedding Announcement

Jason Jaundoo & Ericka Bowins

June 1, 2024

Congratulations!

Messy Church

On **Saturday, May 25** the Messy Church program celebrated our last session before summer break! Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and we were able to gather outside to enjoy activities, games, and a BBQ. The biblical story that we focused on was the Fruits of the Spirit, which was tied into the theme of the summer Olympics. We had an "opening ceremony" where we learned about the fruits of the spirit and divided into teams (Love, Joy, Patience, and Peace), posed in the photo booth, and made Olympic torches. Everyone had fun cheering on their team in the various events, including the "shoe-put," the pentathlon, and the javelin. We ended with the always popular parachute games, as well as a closing ceremony. A fitting end to our Messy Church year!

A sincere thank you to all of our faithful volunteers and participants who have supported the Messy Church program here at St. Philip's. We will be taking a break for the summer months but look for our announcement in the fall for our plans for the next "season."

Dawn Pascoe

Bishop Michael Pryse and Pastor Tuula take advantage of the photo op!

Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm (June only…resumes September)

Prayer Group: Resumes in August

Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm (ends June 18)

Bible Study on Zoom: Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83465153059?pwd=MHFzMkd1NHlmd1d4NVlZVVRuVW9aQT09
Meeting ID: 834 6515 3059; Passcode: 152757

Cover Girls: Wednesdays @ 10:00 am

SPLC Book Club: Wed., June 12 @ 1:00 pm

Choir Practice: Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm ending June 12

50+: Thursday, June 13 @ 12:15 pm

LAVS: June 14 @ 6:00 pm

Eastern Synod Conference: June 20 - 22

Summer BBQ Picnic: June 23

Bishop Pryse

On **Sunday, May 26**, we had the pleasure of hearing Bishop Michael Pryse preach at St. Philip's. He also assisted Pastor Tuula at Children's Time as seen below.

Readings for June

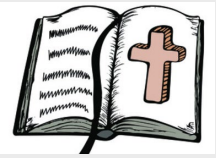
2nd Sunday after Pentecost – June 2
Deuteronomy 5:12-15/Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12/Mark 2:23—3:6

3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 9
Genesis 3:8-15/Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1/Mark 3:20-35

4th Sunday after Pentecost – June 16
Ezekiel 17:22-24/Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17/Mark 4:26-34

5th Sunday after Pentecost – June 23
Job 38:1-11/Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13/Mark 4:35-41

6th Sunday after Pentecost – June 30
Lamentations 3:22-33/Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-15/Mark 5:21-43



Summer BBQ Picnic – Meet the Newcomer Family

Sunday, June 23

This is your chance to enjoy fellowship with each other before many break for summer. It is also a chance to meet our newcomer family who arrived last December.

All are welcome!

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'Friend' us on Facebook

Instagram:@stphilipslutheran

Twitter: @SPLConline

Summer Church Office Hours

WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY : 9 - 12

Next…

Please submit articles and high-res photos (minimum 2 MB) for the next issue of LIFE by **August 28**
… 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.