LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

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DATES OF NOTE:

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Bible Study on Zoom

October 6 – Blessing of Animals

October 9 – SPLC Book Club

October 12 – Wedding

October 17 – 50+

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday: 9 - 12

From Pastor Tuula

"At Calw, the pastor saw a woman gnawing the raw flesh off a dead horse on which a raven was also feeding... Acorns, goats' skins, grass, were all cooked in Alsace; rats were sold in the market at Worms...."

Cicely Veronica Wedgwood's, The Thirty Years War, is loaded with passages like this one. Between 1618 and 1648, political and religious teamed up to create a war in which the Austrians and Swedes and just about anyone else looking for power on the continent took turns thrashing the life out of the German people and countryside hatred. Thousands deserted farms and homes for protection in the old walled-in cities and soon enough, there was no room.

"The living shut their windows to death groans outside", Wedgewood writes. In winter, people stepped over the dead bodies all over the streets. Finally, when the city knew it could do no more, the magistrates threw out 35,000 refugees to terror outside the walls. Plagues swarmed through the streets.

During the final years of that war, Martin Rinkart, a preacher in Saxony, found himself in the heart of all that horror. He held funerals for up to fifty people per day. One day, that number came to include his own wife. Shortly after that, Rinkart sat down and wrote a hymn that thousands of churches in hundreds of different countries still sing. It's a magnificent tribute to the God Rinkart loved and worshipped, even though the world around him had seemingly descended into madness.

Thanksgiving—imagine that—in the middle of all that. "Now thank

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we all our God," Rinkart wrote. Despite the horror, he was still counting his blessings and offering thanks.

Some stories must be told and retold. And some simply must be sung. I look forward to singing this one with you in this year's Thanksgiving service.

See you in church, Pastor Tuula

*Join us on **Sunday, October 13** as we celebrate Thanksgiving along with the baptism of Lucas Hoft, great grandson of the late Helen Scollnik.*

Welcome Back Fall Kick-off with Ice Cream

On **Sunday, September 15** we held our Welcome Back Fall Kick-off with an ice cream truck.

We also blessed the children's backpacks as they began a new school year.

Council Corner

Fall greetings from the church council,

After a restorative summer break, we gathered on a warm evening in mid-September to discuss past, present, and future initiatives. Our church has "hit the ground running" with the change of seasons marking the renewal of many exciting conversations for our team. To highlight a few topics reviewed:

- We approved a plan for another "jazzy brunch" to be hosted on **November 10**. More details in the next issue of our newsletter.
- We heard updates about the refugee sponsorship programs including about the Omari family and two new individuals who are working on paperwork.
- The redevelopment committee gave us a walk-around to help imagine how the parts of the church property might be re-purposed for use by other organizations.

We celebrated all of the hard work these and other projects have required and the wonderful talent and resources our church community has been blessed with.

As always, our meeting minutes are available for review on the church website or on the bulletin board in the narthex.

We welcome comments, questions, or concerns at any time.

Ellen Gallipoli van Rensburg

Finance Update

Finance Update (End of August 2024)

Please find below a financial update to the end of August 2024.

With eight months of the year complete (66%) our spending is slightly below budget with $183,032 (62%) spent against revenue of $149,978 or 51% of our approved budget of $295,000. This means that while we have been spending slightly lower (4%) what we have expected our revenue is some 15% below what we had hoped to achieve by this time.

As a result, at the end of August, we are currently running a deficit of $33,054 or $6,078 further in the red than this time last year.

Some year-to-date financial numbers:

	2024 (Aug 31)	2023 (Aug 31)
Revenue	$149,978	$146,029
Expense	$183,032	$173,005
Net Surplus (Deficit)	($33,054)	($26,976)
Benevolence	$14,695	$16,127

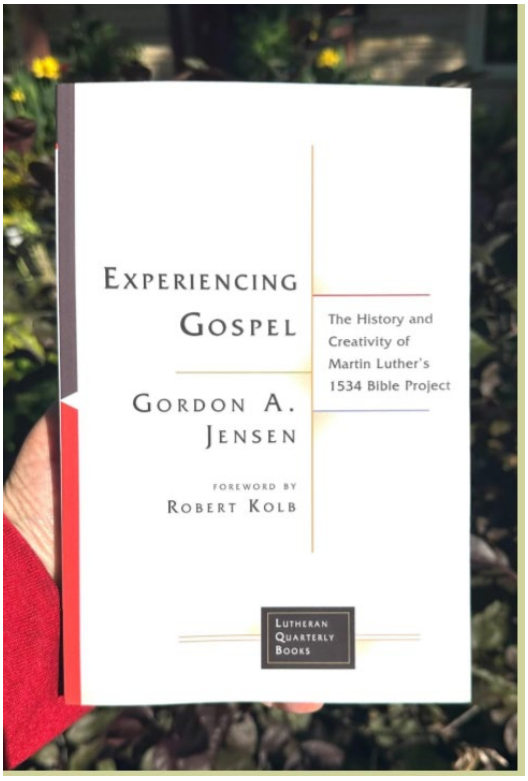
Last Fall due to extraordinary efforts of the congregation we were able to post a small surplus. This year will require a similar effort.

Shortly, I will be sending members of the congregation an update on your year to date donations. As we move through fall and into winter please consider continuing to make your weekly donation.

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

Gary Wuschnakowski

ELCIC Bible Study



Experiencing Gospel
ELCIC Cross Canada Bible Study

3 PM EST on Zoom for 1 hour.

October 8 - Intro Session & Chapter 5: Luther's Emphasis on "WORD"
October 15 - Chapter 6: Luther's Emphasis on "LISTEN TO HIM"
October 22 - Chapter 7: Luther's Emphasis on "FORGIVES SIN
October 29 - Chapter 8: Luther's Emphasis on "TAKE"

7 PM EST on Zoom and In-person
from the *Lutheran Day of Learning*
November 5 – Session 5 with author Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen

Registration Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkfu6trjgpGNxlQX9VaoPevJ-sc6u0tVcm . Free of charge. Ideal for mid-week learning from home and mobile devices on the go. A timely Reformation Sunday refresher.

More details at: https://canadianlutheranhistory.ca/experiencing-gospel

This Bible Study runs from **October 8 - November 5 @ 3pm**. Registration is required.

Registration Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkfu6trjgpGNxlQX9VaoPevJ-sc6u0tVcm

SPLC Book Club

We met on **September 11** to discuss the latest book, The Road Years, by Rick Mercer. We enjoyed some lovely treats and conversation. We will meet on Wednesday, **October 9 @ 1:00 pm** to discuss, The Authenticity Project, by Clare Pooley.

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

Faith Exploration Group

This group (formerly Prayer Group) meets on Tuesday mornings @ 9:30 - 10:30 am.

Parameters:

1) The group follows a drop-in model. You can come to the group whenever you want.
2) The group follows a self-help model. We are mutually supportive and open to positive contributions from anyone who attends.
3) This is not a therapy group, but it is okay if coming to the group makes you feel better.
4) The group follows a "Lighthouse" model. There will always be one person who comes to the group and lights candles.
5) The group session lasts for one hour, divided roughly equally between talking (prophetic) time and quiet time.
6) Participation is voluntary. No one has to talk unless they want to.

There will always be at least 20 minutes of silence during group time. People can experience the quiet time any way they wish.

Perry Taylor

Property Committee Update

The property committee has been keeping busy over the summer months.

The building has seen some improvements – most noticeable is the new carpeting.

Here's a highlighted list:

• Roof repair
• Narthex and coat room ceiling repair (thank you to Perry and Andrew Taylor)
• Narthex painting (thank you again to Perry and Andrew Taylor)
• Installation of new carpet (thank you to the Cover Girls for color selection)
• Kitchen upgrade to commercial standards (thank you Eunice and Raija)
• Fire and Emergency alarm system upgrading to be code compliant
• Suzuki music lessons Wednesday evenings
• Girl Guides returned for Tuesday night meetings
• Ongoing negotiations with rentals
• Rental of Fellowship hall October 1 - 3 to a movie crew from NBC
• Rental of Fellowship Hall to Jack of Sports day camp for kids – 2 weeks in August
• Currently considering other rental requests
• Currently negotiating snow removal contract
• Some minor plumbing repairs, arranged, but yet to be completed
• Assessment of HVAC system. In the process of replacing aging equipment.

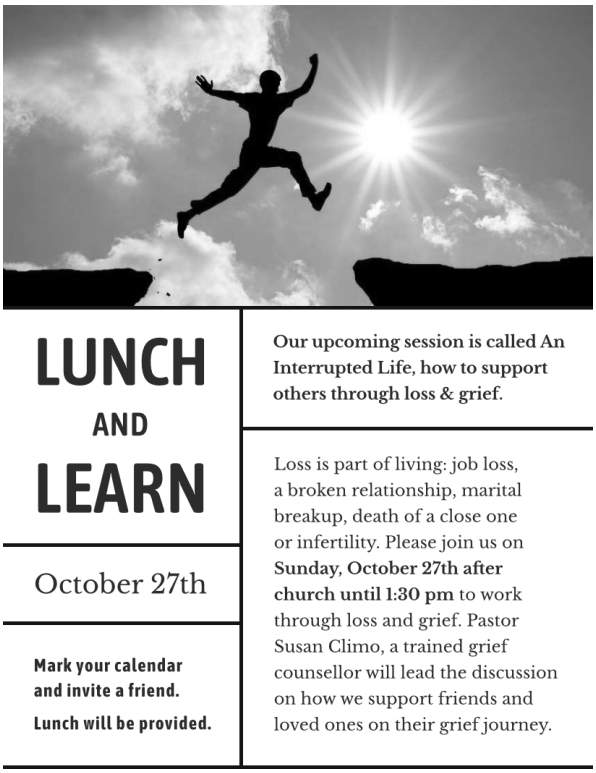
Kitchen upgrades will be completed shortly with stainless steel countertop and repair of faucets.

Herb Feller

Learning Ministry Team

We are pleased to announce the recent formation of a Learning Ministry Team. Our role is to provide meaningful, relevant and practical learning experiences in support of faith formation and community building at St. Philip's. An amazing team of individuals bring energy and wisdom to this task: Pastor Tuula, Doris Brownlie, Louise Clunas and Karen Taylor. Please reach out to Jerry Hogeveen if you are interested in joining this ministry team.

Lunch & Learn



Lunch & Learn Survey

Your input is needed! St Philip's Learning Ministry Team is looking to develop a series of Lunch & Learn/small discussion group topics for the upcoming year. A list of potential topics has been created but let us know what other topics you'd like to see or feel there is a need for.

Please either complete the survey form available from the ushers over the next few weeks, OR complete the online survey available at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8BD36BW by end of day **Sunday, October 13**.

Messy Church

After a summer break, we held the first Messy Church event of the season on **Saturday, September 21**. Thankfully, the weather co-operated, and we were able to be outside on the lawn. The theme for the event was based on the words in Micah 6:8: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. The activities included making "kindness kards", an obstacle course, sidewalk chalk, and the "Orange shirt Blue shirt" game with a Truth and Reconciliation message. We finished the activity time with group parachute games, followed by a BBQ supper, and ended with a celebration.

We're looking forward to our next event on **Saturday, November 23rd** from **4 - 6pm** *(please note the date change!)*. Join us as we focus on the theme of Advent.

To let us know you're coming, or if you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to stphilipsmessychurch@gmail.com

Plan ahead! Mark your calendar for **Pageant Sunday - December 15**.

Messy Church: where faith, fun, and food meet up. Child friendly and adult approved.

Dawn Pascoe

50+

On **Thursday, September 19** the group enjoyed a bagged lunch at the church before heading over to Montgomery's Inn for a guided tour. We will meet again on **October 17**. Please see p. 7 for details.

Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm /
Bells: Mondays @ 7:15 pm

Faith Exploration: Tuesdays @ 9:30 am

Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

ELCIC Bible Study: Tuesdays @ 3:00 pm Oct. 8 - Nov.5 – Registration required (p. 4)

Bible Study on Zoom: Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm: Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – see bottom right below

Cover Girls: Wed. @ 10:00 am

Etobicoke Suzuki Music: Wed. @ 5:45 pm

Choir: Wed. @ 7:30 pm

LAVS: Oct. 4 @ 7:00 pm

SPLC Book Club: Wed., Oct. 9 @ 1:00 pm

50+: Thursday, Oct. 17 @ 12:15 pm

Council: October 24 @ 7pm

Messy Church : Saturday, Nov. 23 @ 4 pm

Readings for October

20th Sunday after Pentecost – October 6
Genesis 2:18-24/Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1 -4,2:5-12/Mark 10:2-16

Thanksgiving Sunday – October 13
Joel 2:21-27/Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7/Matthew 6:25-33

22nd Sunday after Pentecost – October 20
Isaiah 53:4-12/Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10/Mark 10:35-45

Reformation Sunday – October 27
Jeremiah 31:7-9/Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28/Mark 10:46-52

50+

October 17

@ 12:15 pm Oktoberfest Lunch

@ 1:30 pm Speaker, Stephen Lewis Foundation:
Grandmothers to Grandmothers

See sign -up sheet in the narthex or call the church office at 416.622.5577 to reserve a spot.

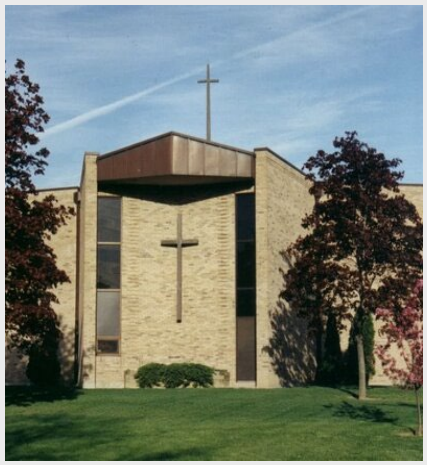
(Please note the annual fee of $10 will be accepted. There will be small hand-made items for sale along with a freewill offering for the campaign.)

Good food, fellowship, and fun!

SPLC Bible Study

October 1, 8 – Awakening the Divine
October 15, 22, 29 – discussion of Sunday's readings

on Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87460993269?pwd=4dptG7Id726x96NurjBuai3S4klBfa.1
Meeting ID: 874 6099 3269
Passcode: 127588



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stphilip@bellnet.ca

'Friend' us on Facebook

Instagram:@stphilipslutheran

Twitter: @SPLConline

Wedding Announcement

Saturday, October 12 @ 2pm

Jeff Macko and Frances Zuccarini

Next...

Please submit articles and high-res photos (minimum 2 MB) for the next issue of LIFE by **October 25**
... 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.