LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

In This Issue:

Fundraising Auction – 2

Council Corner / Music Notes – 3

Blessing of the Animals – 4

Book Club / Baptism – 4

Lunch & Learn / Wedding – 5

Jazzy Brunch / Confirmation Class – 5

50+ – 6

Schedule – 7

DATES OF NOTE:

Nov. 3 – All Saints Sunday

Nov. 5, 12, 19 – Bible Study on Zoom

Nov. 10 – Jazzy Brunch

Nov. 13 – SPLC Book Club

Nov. 14 – 50+

Nov. 23 – Confirmation Class & Messy Church

HOLIDAYS:
Pastor Tuula
Nov. 26 – Dec. 11
Pastor Nadine Nicholds is available on call @ 647.403.5545

From Pastor Tuula

For All the Saints…

It always breaks my heart a little when a person dies after decades of service and faithfulness. It breaks my heart a little more when only a handful of people show up at the funeral. On All Saints Day, the names of all people who have died are read with thanks in front of the entire congregation. "For all the saints who from their labours rest," we sing.

Who are all these saints? Even though many of the hymns for All Saints refer to the saints of old, most of us prefer saints closer to home. Our communion of saints is a familiar crowd: those who died in the past year, our parents, grandparents. It's a good day to remember all those who have gone before us, the ones on whose shoulders we stand, the ones whose lives and witness have brought us to this day.

We can study the history of our faith and say we are where we are today because our ancestors raised their voices, made bold decisions and taught the faith. We are where we are today because our ancestors were willing to go to jail, to be thrown to the lions and be burned at the stake. They did all these things because they loved God, but also because they loved us, their descendants whom they would never know. They wanted to make sure the story of the gospel was here for us. We are who we are today because of their faith and devotion.

One All Saints Day our names will be read. We are the saints for future generations. We are the shoulders on which others will stand. Will we be ancestors who sat on their hands or ancestors

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who raised their hands? Sometimes we forget that we aren't just living our lives. We're also laying a foundation, molding a future and establishing a legacy.

Will you leave a legacy of justice and generosity or a bequest of selfishness? Being a saint means living in hope and not in despair. It means forgiving, not judging; loving, not despising; lifting up, not tearing down.

When the organ announces the beginning of the hymn "*For All the Saints*," it calls us to worship with the communion of saints. It is a call to St. Peter and St. Paul, to Mary Magdalene, Martin Luther and our parents and grandparents, those who built St. Philip's Lutheran Church for us. As we remember these strong shoulders on which we stand, we are challenged to strengthen our own shoulders. We are ancestors in the making, saints for a generation yet unborn. What an opportunity!

See you in church, Pastor Tuula

Fundraising Auction

The St. Philip's Fundraising Auction will take place in the Fellowship Hall on December 8, 2024, following the service. Proceeds will be used for the needs of the church, as determined by the Council.

The event coordinators are Doris Pascoe and Donna Schwantes and we are looking for volunteers to assist us, both on the day of the auction and in the weeks leading up to it. If you would like to help, please contact either Donna or Doris. There will be a planning meeting on **November 3** in the boardroom, after church. We thank Gary Wuschnakowski for volunteering to be our auctioneer again this year.

As in other years, we are soliciting donations of event tickets (sports, concerts, theatre), tours, dining experiences, and cottage weekends. In addition, we will be reaching out to the various groups and committees in the church to provide gift baskets for the silent auction.

The popular wine raffle will also be back this year, so please consider dropping off a bottle or two for the raffle boxes.

Donna Schwantes and Doris Pascoe

Council Corner

Greetings from the church council.

We met again in the upstairs auditorium to discuss possible initiatives in our church community. Our largest agenda item was to welcome Julia Zaritsky from Eco Kids Day Care to explore the possibility of hosting a day care within the basement.

We learned about the specific obligations we would take on as a "landlord" and heard about some of the challenges and growth this change would require. A lively discussion ensued, and council members have elected to take some time to reflect on whether this project indeed aligns with our values and vision.

Excitingly, we also learned that the ELCIC has approved funding to support the establishment of a Spanish speaking congregation within the St. Philip's space. Further details related to both of these projects can be found online in our meeting minutes and will be shared in Sunday services as updates arise.

Our busy Altar Care Team is not only doing a fantastic job getting the Church ready for services but they are the eyes and ears of what our members are feeling about the service.

They brought to our attention that some members are concerned about not hearing everything during the service. Sometimes this is because we are not using the microphone when speaking, sometimes it is background noise and sometimes it is where they sit.

We want everyone from youngest to the oldest to feel included and part of the service. So, let's remember even if you feel you have a loud voice, to use the microphone or if our littlest members are grabbing books from the table on the side of the church to do it quietly or if we need to use the devices to increase our hearing that we do so and that way all can enjoy the service to the fullest.

Ellen and Marcia

Music Notes

I'm back! and all refreshed from the summer - among other things I enjoyed a week visiting Montreal and Ottawa with a German friend, plus an unexpected but very heartwarming high school reunion in Newfoundland!

We are now in the process of planning the Advent and Christmas seasons and those interested in singing are warmly invited to come and bolster our choir ranks. Sheet music will shortly be made available and I can text or email recordings to you if you would like to have a head start on the music. If you prefer texts, which might be easier to access in the car, please write me with your cell phone number.

Choir Practice:
Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm

St. Philip's is also going to combine with St. Matthew's Anglican Church on Bloor Street for a service with Christmas music on **Sunday, December 1** in the afternoon, and anyone who would like to participate is very welcome. I'm looking forward to choosing all our music shortly – the list of anthems in the cabinets totals 489 – so we have ample to choose from! If you have any particular favourites – including hymns you would like to sing then or at any time of year - please mention them to me or send me an email.

My best wishes to all of you for good health, warm friendships, and a fulfilling spiritual journey.

Have a wonderful November!

Karen

Blessing of the Animals

On **Sunday, October 6,** Pastor Tuula blessed the pets of those who attended the special service.

SPLC Book Club

We met on **October 11** to discuss the latest book, The Authenticity Project, by Clare Pooley. We enjoyed some lovely treats and conversation. We will meet on **Wednesday, November 13 @ 1:00 pm** to discuss, Who Has Seen the Wind, by W. O. Mitchell.

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

Baptism

On **Sunday, October 13** Valerie and Michelle Hoft had their second son, Lucas Andrew, baptized. He is the great grandson of the late Helen Scollnik.

Lunch & Learn

On **Sunday, October 27** a session called, An Interrupted Life, was led by Pastor Susan Climo as she led a discussion on how we support friends and loved ones on their grief journey. Loss is part of living: job loss, a broken relationship, marital breakup, death of a close one or infertility.

The event was well attended and, of course, a lovely lunch was enjoyed by all. Stay tuned for further sessions as this has become an initiative from Church Council.

Wedding

On **Saturday, October 12**, Pastor Tuula wed Jeff Macko and Frances Zuccarini in our church.

Jazzy Brunch: Nov. 10

Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact the church office via email or phone.

Confirmation Class

The first class began on **Saturday, October 26**. We have a lovely group of girls: Hannah Holt, Olivia Holt, Sophia Cordoba, Colleen Costello, and Grace Costello.

50+

The 50+ Group had a very successful Oktoberfest Luncheon on **October 17** with lots of great food and drink, warm fellowship, and smiling faces!

We also enjoyed our speakers from the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Peggy Thorn and Jo-Anne Page who talked about the beginnings of the "Grandmothers to Grandmothers" campaign.

Peggy Thorn

Jo-Anne Page

They showed pics re: African projects and fundraising events. They also brought some show and tell items and handicrafts for sale. A delightful opening luncheon was had by all of us!

Please note we have 2 more upcoming luncheons in the calendar year:

1) **Nov. 14 @ 12:15 pm** Lasagna Lunch and Local Food Bank Update with Speaker Marcia Powers- Dunlop

2) **Dec. 12 @ 12:15 pm** Festive Christmas Lunch with entertainment by jazz pianist, Heiki Tamm.

Please sign up and join us for these upcoming luncheons and feel free to bring a guest to enjoy our Good Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

Doris Pascoe and Donna Schwantes

Zumba: Mondays @ 1:00 pm

Bells: Mondays @ 7:15 pm

Faith Exploration: Tuesdays @ 9:30 am

Girl Guides: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

Bible Study on Zoom: Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm: Nov. 5, 12, 19 – see bottom right below

Cover Girls: Wed. @ 10:00 am

Etobicoke Suzuki Music: Wed. @ 5:45 pm

Choir: Wed. @ 7:30 pm

LAVS: Nov. 8 @ 7:00 pm

Jazzy Brunch: Sunday, Nov. 10 @ 11:00 am

SPLC Book Club: Wed., Nov. 13 @ 1:00 pm

50+: Thursday, Nov. 14 @ 12:15 pm

Church Council: Nov. 21 @ 7pm

Messy Church : Saturday, Nov. 23 @ 4 pm

50+

November 14 @ 12: 15 pm

Marcia Powers-Dunlop will speak to St. James Food Bank.

Please bring non-perishable food items or a monetary donation for the local food bank.

Freewill offering.

Good food, fellowship, and fun!

Readings for November

All Saints Sunday – Nov. 3
Isaiah 25:6-9/Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a/John 11:32-44

25th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov. 10
1 Kings 17:8-16/Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28/Mark 12:38-44

26th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov. 17
Daniel 12:1-3/Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11—25/Mark 13:1-8

Christ the King Sunday – Nov. 24
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14/Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8/John 18:33-37

SPLC Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm

Join Pastor Tuula as she discusses the readings from Sunday's worship services.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87500536641?pwd=rbrBQTmZoY1d20a7UHRCpJTQlsY0AL.1

Meeting ID: 875 0053 6641
Passcode: 325382

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Mark Kieswetter, Music Director Emeritus

'Friend' us on Facebook

Instagram:@stphilipslutheran

Twitter: @SPLConline

Farewell to St. Philip's

It has been a pleasure to serve the congregation of St. Philip's over the past 9 years. I will miss you, but I have fond memories which I will cherish.

My husband and I were fortunate enough to sell our home in Toronto. We look forward to retirement and what all of that entails…including more winery visits.

Cheers, Margaret Isaacs

Next…

Please submit articles and high-res photos (minimum 2 MB) for the next issue of LIFE by **November 22** … send good news to: 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.