LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

DECEMBER 2024

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DATES TO NOTE:

December 1 – Lessons & Carols

December 8 – Music Sunday & Auction

December 12 – 50+ Christmas Luncheon

December 15 – Pageant Sunday & Pizza Lunch

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship

December 25 – Christmas Day Worship

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Friday: 9 - 12

HOLIDAYS:
Office will be closed December 25 – January 1

ADVENT

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

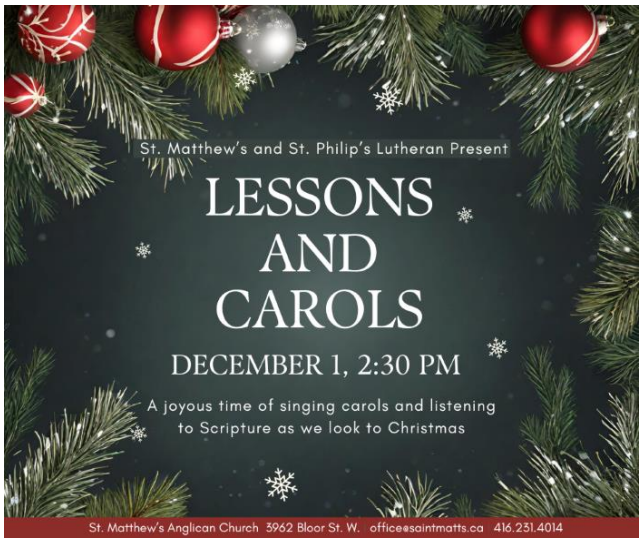
from Sundays & Seasons

Pastor Tuula's Letter will return in the next issue of LIFE. She is on vacation to December 11 Pastor Nadine Nicholds is available at 647-403-5545.

Music Notes

An early Happy Christmas wish to everybody… this time of year seems always to move faster than others! The choir has been diligently preparing Christmas music, some with trumpet (Christmas Eve) and with our Bell Choir, which is really a treat, on Dec. 8th. We are looking forward to that special music service on the 8th, and of course, also to the pageant the following Sunday.

This Sunday, Dec. 1st, some of our Choir members with the Bell Choir will be participating in a conjoint Christmas concert at 2:30 PM at Saint Matthew's Anglican Church, 3962 Bloor Street W.



This went very well last year and was enjoyed by both participants and audience. You are welcome to come and hear a variety of music that day, as well as singing along to the Christmas hymns.

And as ever – if you find you have a little time during the next few weeks and like singing, please feel free to join us in the choir. Regular attendance at the Wednesday evening practice is not essential – I will send recordings of the music (and parts) you will be singing. If you are in church, stop by and pick up copies of the sheet music; or I can send scans by email if that is more convenient.

Very best wishes, have a happy but relaxed few weeks before Christmas, and see you at Church!!

Karen Quinton
416.231.9247; kgquinton@icloud.com

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SERVICE

DECEMBER 8

10 AM

Messy Church

With the Christmas season rapidly approaching, our focus at November's Messy Church was around the theme of preparing for Advent. The message of sharing hope, peace, joy, and love this Advent season was incorporated into each part of our event. The "messy" activities included making an advent wreath, paper angels, writing cards, and decorating cookies to share love and joy with members of our congregation. And we had a special science activity: the mystery scents of the season. Following the activity time, we shared a meal together and ended with a celebration.

We're looking forward to Pageant Sunday on Sunday, December 15th at 10:00am. Everyone is welcome to participate, whether you want to be an angel, a shepherd, or an animal at the inn.

Messy Church: where faith, fun, and food meet up.

Child friendly and adult approved.

Jazzy Brunch

On **Sunday, November 10** we kicked off our year-end fundraising with a lovely brunch. Food was hot, the mimosas cold, and the Mo' West Trio kept us entertained and our feet tapping.

A successful kickoff to year-end fundraising – thanks for your support!

Council Update

In the November newsletter we told you that Council has been looking at various ways we can use our facilities that align with our Vision and Mission, serve God, serve our community and, if possible, generate some funds. Much thought, discussion, hard work and yes, difficult decision-making has taken place. We had hoped to move forward with a day care proposal. However, after more thought and prayer we have decided not to move forward with that initiative. We are, however, partnering and moving forward with the establishment of a Spanish speaking congregation and social services initiative funded by our Synod and housed within St Philip's. Please check with any member of Council if you have any questions about this.

We hope to see many of you joining us for services and some of the many exciting activities outlined elsewhere in the newsletter during advent and the Christmas season.

Marcia Powers-Dunlop
Council Chairperson

ST. JAMES FOODBASKET

The Angel Project

The Confirmands are leading a Christmas Angel project – where you can be the angel by providing much-needed hygiene products to support the clients of the St James' Food Basket. What's needed? Baby diapers, toiletry items (shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothpaste etc.) and personal care products (sanitary pads, tampons, incontinence products). Bring hygiene products to the church and drop them in the baskets by the signs for "Christmas Angel 2024".

50+

Marcia Powers-Dunlop was the guest speaker at the November luncheon. Marcia shared insight into food insecurity in our neighbourhood and the work of St James' Food Bank to address the needs.

End-of-Year Fundraising 2024

We are each asked to consider how we give to St Philip's as 2024 ends. All donations are welcome as we look to cover the expenses from the work of 2024 and plans and hopes take shape for 2025.

Thanks for all you do!

Use your phone to scan this QR code and go directly to CanadaHelps to make a donation to St Philip's.

Flowers for Church

Help decorate the church with seasonal flowers. Bring them anytime. Or mark a monetary donation with "Christmas flowers".

Good Food Market

A special market is running at Willowridge. Can you help? All are welcome!

ST PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mark Kieswetter, Music Director Emeritus

Hear the Story

The Pageant

December 15 | 2024 | 10am

This is a pageant that welcomes everyone to be a part of the story! Help tell the story as an angel, a shepherd, wise ones or even an animal. Or sit and listen once again to the story of the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night.

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.