# LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

## JANUARY 2025

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### DATES TO NOTE:

**January 6 –** Epiphany

**January 7 –** Bible Study "A Hidden Wholeness"

**January 14 –** Bible Study "A Hidden Wholeness"

**January 16** – 50+

**January 21** – Bible Study "A Hidden Wholeness"

**January 25 –** Messy Church

**January 28 –** Bible Study "A Hidden Wholeness"

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**
Monday - Friday: 9 - 12

## *From the desk of Pastor Tuula…*

There is one ritual I really hate during the holidays: taking down the tree.

It's a sad job, as it marks the end of the season. And it's messy - dragging out a month old, dried up fir. Most of all, it leaves the house with big empty hole in the corner of the living room. What was there before the tree? I can't even remember.

I need to get over this annual trauma. January is supposedly the month of moving on, cleaning out, and lightening up. It invites us to think of the things like my tree - the old, dried up parts of our lives - that need clearing out. Maybe it is an old grudge that you need to release or a lingering sense of self-doubt. The hardest part of the holidays is the clearing out. With it comes sadness, messiness and emptiness.

When we let go of something, even the old, bad, dried up stuff, we feel loss. What is known (good or bad) is gone. And any loss brings sadness.

The clearing out can be messy, as it shakes loose a load of emotional Christmas tree needles in our lives; ones that can show up later in strange places we didn't expect (like the needles I found in the vegetable bin of the refrigerator).

Most of all, letting go can leave a hole we're not sure how to fill. If we let go of anger, then what goes in its place? If we aren't mad, then who are we?

Hard as it was, I'm glad I took down the tree. Sure, I have a lot of needles to sweep and furniture to rearrange. But if I didn't take down the old dried up tree, then where would I find room for the new tree – and the new joy – next Christmas? Happy New Year's cleaning!

See you in church,
Pastor Tuula

50+

JANUARY 16

12:15PM

SOUP & GENTLE EXERCISE

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## The Angel Project

The Confirmands led a Christmas Angel project to provide much-needed hygiene products to for the clients of the St James' Food Basket. Baby diapers, toiletry items (shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothpaste etc.) and personal care products (sanitary pads, tampons, incontinence products) were some of the products collected.

**Thanks for supporting the Angel Project!**

## The Pageant | December 15

### Telling the story of the nativity…

Mary, Joseph, an Innkeeper, a Star and a Donkey. Shepherds, Angels, Animals and Wise Ones

An intergenerational pageant and pizza lunch organized by Messy Church.

***Messy Church 2025 Dates:***

*Saturday, January 25, 4-6pm*
*Good Friday, April 18, 11am-1pm*
*Saturday, March 1, 4-6pm*
*Saturday, May 24, 4-6pm*

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

## The Good Food Market

Last market of 2024! November 20 to December 18 @ Willowridge.

45 market customers were served @ the Holiday Market, December 18 where they received:

- 200+ toys and books
- Tim Horton's hot chocolate, apple cider and donuts
- 64 St. Philip's knit hats and 37 scarves
- gently used children's winter wear
- 36 free fruit bags
- 75 $25 PC grocery gift cards
- 50 $20 Walmart gift cards
- and decorated 75 gingerbread cookies

This was possible because of the support of 18 volunteers and partners St. Timothy's Presbyterian and Kingsway-Lambton United Church. Kingsway-Lambton United provided the toys and $1000 of Walmart gift cards

## CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

## JOY TO THE WORLD!

## Auction 2024 | December 8

Thanks to you… the Auction was record-breaking!
We raised just over $9,150.

## Lessons and Carols | December 1

A joyous time of singing carols and listening to scripture.

The choirs of St Philip's joined with the choir of St Matthew's for an afternoon of music and readings to start Advent.

## ST PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## Our Vision:

Freed by the grace of Christ, we seek to connect with God, neighbour, and self.

## Bible Study

"A Hidden Wholeness"
4-week series
Tuesdays, Jan. 7-28
7pm
Details are in the weekly email – join on Zoom.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

## There's always something to do!

We have lots of opportunities @ St Philip's to get involved on Sunday ... and during the week.

Can you help?

- Usher
- Reading
- Coffee hour
- Baked goods