LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

March 2025

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DATES TO NOTE:

March 1 Messy Church

March 5 Ash Wednesday
Winter Market @ Willow Ridge

March 7 World Day of Prayer

March 8 Confirmation Class
DST – change your clocks

March 12 Book Club, Last Winter Market; Lent Soup Supper and Evening Prayer

March 16 1st Spanish service

March 19 Lent Soup Supper and Evening Prayer

March 20 50+ at Mandarin

March 23 Lunch & Learn

March 26 Lent Soup Supper and Evening Prayer

Wash Me

Driving in Toronto during winter is to put one's car through a daily salt bath. Unlike salt baths for the body, there's no therapeutic benefit to these street salt baths. They rot cars and turn painted steel into iron oxide. My car has been rotting for more than a month, if that's what happens when it doesn't get run through a car wash.

The other day I was driving behind an SUV when I suddenly felt a burst of pride. This car was more salt-splattered than mine. On the tailgate window, in large letters, were famous words with exclamation points: WASH ME!! As I followed the car for several blocks, my mind wandered. What if the owner himself put up that lettering? Maybe he honestly thought some kind soul would walk up to him and say, "Can I please wash your car?" Perhaps he doesn't see the words because he uses the car's backup camera when pulling out of a parking space. Most likely, however, the grime and salt have simply accumulated gradually to the point where he doesn't even care about the graffiti.

That's the way grime and dirt accumulate in our lives - gradually. In C. S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*, senior devil Screwtape writes to his apprentice devil Wormwood about the best methods for delivering souls to hell. The cumulative effect of small sins, notes Screwtape, beats the spectacular wickedness of dramatic sin. "*Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."*

Continued next page

Wash Me (continued from page 1)

The salt on the SUV I tailed that day was accumulated grunge, just like most of the messes in our lives. It's the sordid pieces of our personal lives that accumulate without fanfare - the capacity to judge, the unforgiving spirit, the self-centered ways.

This is why we need Ash Wednesday and that gray smudge. Yes, it adds grime on top of grime. But that ash functions like a milestone or signpost, because it's in the shape of a cross.

See you in church,
Pastor Tuula

LENT 2025 Soup Suppers

This year the soup suppers will be hosted by:

Date	Host
March 12	Council
March 19	Choir
March 26	Cover Girls+
April 2	50+
April 9	Confirmation Class
Maundy Thursday, April 17	Learning Ministry Team

Lenten Devotions

Looking for a devotion for Lent? Here are a few available to choose from:

Lutherans Connect Lenten series - *Streams of living justice*: Traversing the waterways of our planet, explore the places where justice issues are intricately entwined with political and environmental realities. Get added to the email distribution to read the daily blog devotion. Email lutheransconnect@gmail.com

Lutheran Hour Ministries – Read, listen or print these devotions. In *Servant of the Lord,* see Jesus as God's Son and our Redeemer. Jesus *served* us – lovingly, patiently, compassionately. Find this at LHM.ORG/LENT

Luther Seminary –*There in God's Garden* can be downloaded from luthersem.edu/godpause/Lenten-devotional/

50+ Valentine's Luncheon

February 20, 2025

After a hearty meal, a visual trip was taken to France with Gary Wuschnakowski.

Sign up by March 9 for the 50+ Lunch at the Mandarin:

- ✓ add your name to the sheet on the bulletin board
- ✓ or contact the office by phoning 416-622-5577
- ✓ or email stphilip@bellnet.ca

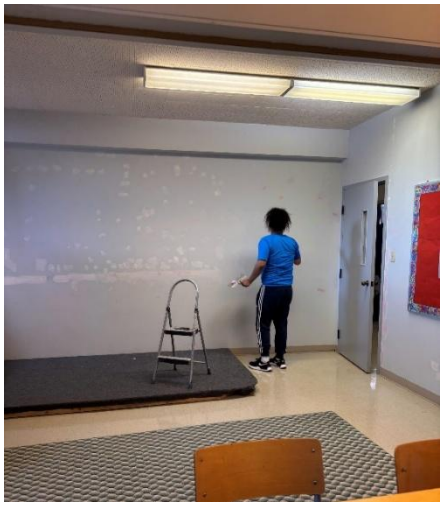
Make a difference by donating!
Support the Good Food Market

Join the $200 Club

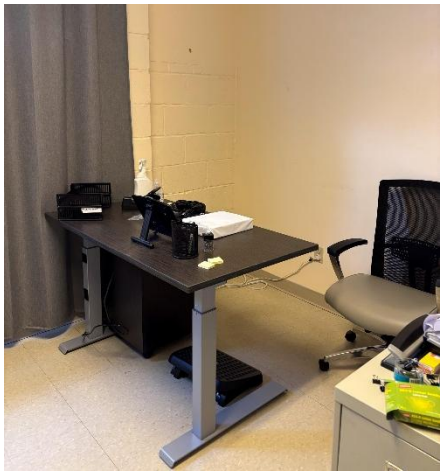
Would you consider donating your $200 Ontario rebate cheque?

The City of Toronto has declared food insecurity an emergency in the city. Our Good Food Market is making a difference at 44 Willowridge. Your $200 would support our ability to subsidize the cost of produce and to distribute grocery gift cards. Just mark your donation for the Good Food Market.

Communidad Luterana Fuente de Amor



In an initiative being led by Carmen Ramirez, the new mission congregation Communidad Luterana Fuente de Amor (Lutheran Community Fountain of Love), begins worshipping at St Philip's on March 16 at 1pm. This exciting new congregation has received initial funding from the Eastern Synod to begin this Spanish ministry. We welcome them to our home and pray for their ministries.



They have painted and furnished office and meeting space in the basement of the church. They will be worshipping weekly Sundays at 1pm. You may see some new instruments when you come to church.

Carmen's grandson – the youngest member!

March 9 @ 2am we go to Daylight Savings Time

Special music provided by cellist Tea Isono on February 23

We welcomed new members!

Join us in welcoming David and Carol Lau; David Clunas; Erik Clunas; Louise Clunas; Andrew Matemba; Patricia Matemba; James Matemba; and Susan Mrango to the St Philip's family.

Annual Meeting

Carmen Ramirez sharing the exciting development of the Spanish mission

Lots of good news was shared at the Annual Meeting on February 23!

At the meeting we thanked outgoing Council members for their service: Marcia Powers-Dunlop (chairperson) and Perry Taylor.

We welcomed new Council members Louise Clunas, Eric Fergin, Jerry Hogeveen, Raija Koski-Bruce and Dean Oswald who join ongoing Council members Ellen Gallipoli van Rensburg, Sandi Hanslep-LePage, Andrea Holt, Pat Lovell, Victoria Luciani, Jeff Macko and Sam Marcuson.

"As we reflect on the gifts and blessings of 2024, we now move forward with renewed hope and courage, with a continued commitment to our missions, and with excitement to see what God has in store for St Philip's in 2025." *Pastor Tuula*

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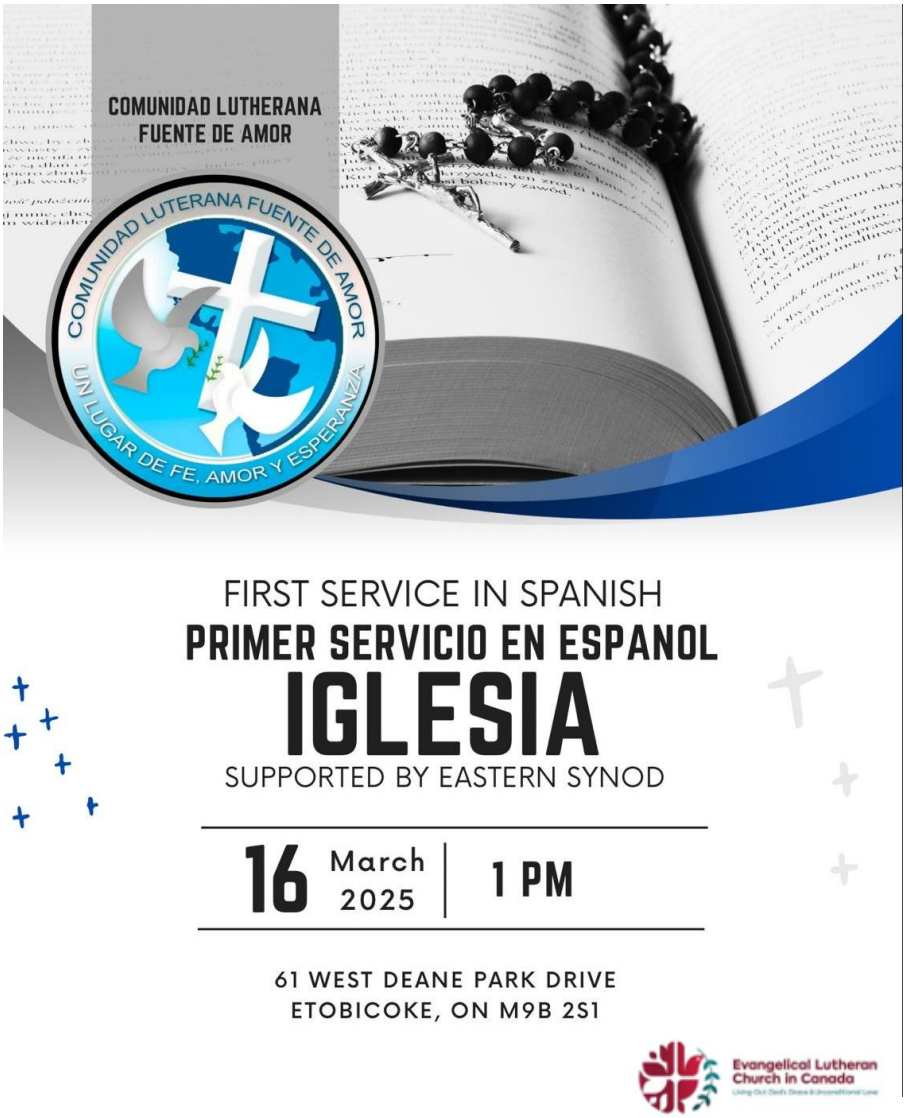
Mark Kieswetter,
Music Director Emeritus

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.

March 23 | 2025 | 11:15 am

Learn about Autism from The New Haven Learning Centre