LIFE @ ST. PHILIP'S

St. Philip's Lutheran Church | Toronto, ON

April 2025

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DATES TO NOTE:

April 3 Kid's After School Cooking program begins

April 9 Last Lent Soup Supper and Evening Prayer

April 10 50+ Spring Fling Luncheon

April 13 Palm Sunday

April 17 Maundy Thursday Service

April 18 Messy Church Egg Colouring; Good Friday service

April 20 Easter Sunday service

God blesses our lives for the benefit of others

When my wealthy neighbour credited his corporate success and personal wealth to his own talent and hard work, I knew I was in unfamiliar waters. When he made it clear that government controlled most of his day (daylight savings time), I knew I was in deep water. When he described the poor as being unwilling to do what it takes to work hard and assume responsibility, I knew I might end up drowning. I didn't take the opportunity to challenge him on the source of his good fortune, but this line of E. B. White came to mind: "Luck is not something you can mention in the presence of self-made men."

It is peculiar how those of us lucky enough to be born on third base tend to assume that we landed there because our talent and hard work allowed us to hit a triple. It's easy to overestimate how responsible we are for our own successes. All we have to do is remove humility and generosity from our worldview. The leap between enjoying the benefits of a prosperous life and believing that personal grit bought us that advantage can be very small.

When it comes to building a more just society, the fears of my neighbour were obvious. He's convinced the government wants to so thoroughly redistribute wealth by taxing "successful people" that the prosperity of every citizen, including the most undeserving, will be identical.

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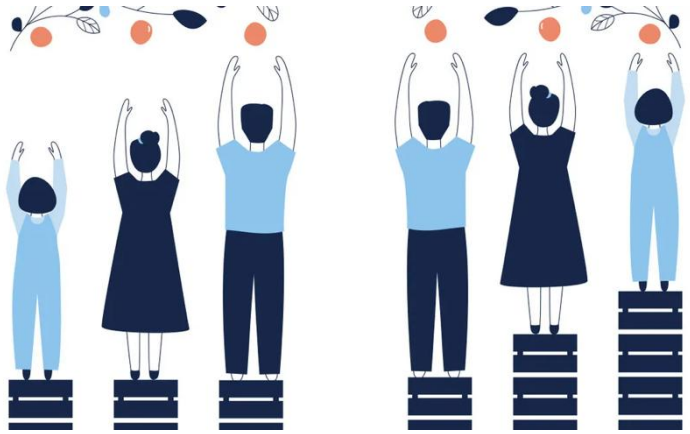
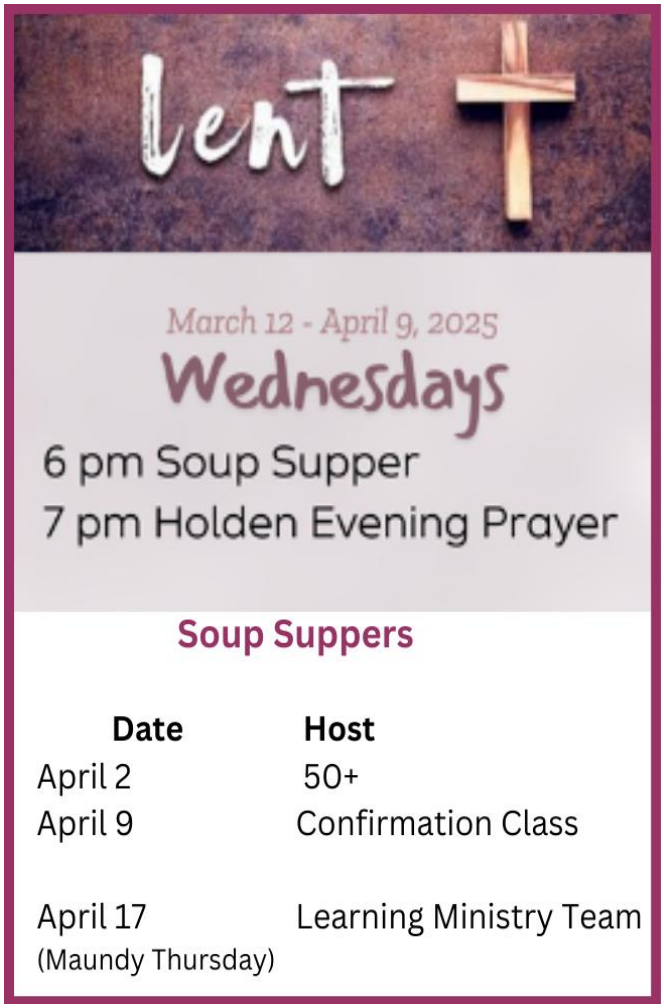


God blesses our lives for the benefit of others (continued from page 1)

I chose not to debate ideas of hard work or luck, preferring to simply paraphrase Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Blessing does not constitute privileged status; it confers responsibility". God blesses our lives for the benefit of others, not to their exclusion.

I don't expect my neighbour's mind changed. But if he's able to acknowledge some connection between his good fortune and a responsibility to help those less privileged than he is, then I consider the day a success.

See you in church,
Pastor Tuula



If you are interested and able to volunteer on any of these Thursdays, please contact Eunice Hogeveen, or email stphilip@bellnet.ca with the specific dates and timings you can offer.

Autism Lunch & Learn | Sunday 23 March

Hosted by the New Haven Learning Center, St Philip's held an Autism Lunch & Learn session on Sunday 23 March.

The event, which drew 54 attendees, was an engaging introduction into developing awareness and compassion for people with autism.

50+ Luncheon at the Mandarin | March 12

A joyful afternoon was spent at the Mandarin at Queensway, Toronto.

Spring Fling Luncheon | April 10

Sign up by April 9 by:

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

Celebrating a special birthday

Ursula Stavnitsky celebrated her 95th birthday!

Messy Church | March 1

Messy Church was held on March 1st, and we focused on the theme of "The Armour of God". Through a team scavenger hunt activity, we solved clues along the way to learn about each piece of armour. Following the activity time, we shared a meal together, and ended with a celebration.

Coming up in April, we're planning a special Easter Egg Colouring event! Please join us on **Good Friday, April 18th**, immediately following the 11am church service. Everyone is welcome! We will be colouring Easter eggs, and lunch will be served. Please bring hard cooked eggs to decorate; all other supplies will be provided. We hope that you can join us for this fun and "messy" event!

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

We welcomed the new Church Council | 23 March

On Sunday 23 March, we installed the new Church Council. Our 2025 Council members are:

- Jerry Hogeveen (Chair)
- Dean Oswald (Vice Chair)
- Sam Marcuson (Secretary)
- Louise Clunas
- Eric Fergin
- Ellen Gallipoli van Rensburg
- Sandi Hanslep-LePage
- Andrea Holt
- Raija Koski-Bruce
- Pat Lovell
- Victoria Luciani
- Jeff Macko

First Spanish Service | March 16

With some powerful music and prayer, Comunidad Luterana Fuente de Amor, the mission congregation, held their first service.

They will be worshipping Sundays @ 1pm. All are welcome to worship with them.

Congratulations, Marcia!

Marcia Powers-Dunlop is the recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her work with Girl Guides.

World Day of Prayer | March 7

March 7 marked World Day of Prayer, a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice.

The service is written by women from a different country each year, and this year it was created by women from Cook Islands.

Last Winter Market @ Willow Ridge

We saw the last Winter Good Food Market at Willow Ridge this month.

As usual, the market was well attended by residents of Willow Ridge, with the produce selling (quite literally) like hot potatoes!

Thank you to Eunice and Raija, and all of our volunteers, for another successful year of the Winter Good Food Market.

The Summer Good Food Market will commence on 21st May.

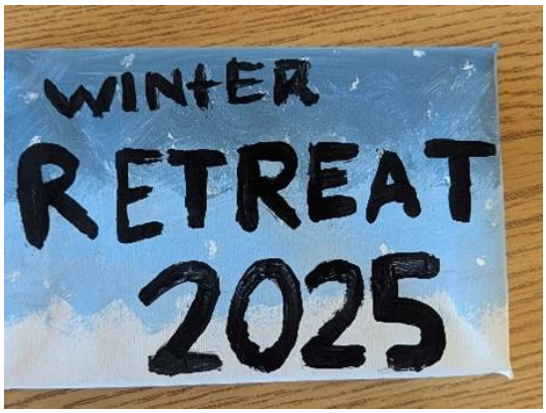
Breaking Fast with Madbakh Ladies

28 Feb– 30 Mar 2025 marks the Islamic period of Ramadan, which is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting.

This month, Pastor Tuula broke the fast with the Madbakh Women's initiative, a non-profit community-based organization mandated to serve the specific needs of African families in Canada.

Here you can see Pastor Tuula learning how to make samosas.

Youth at a Winter Retreat



This year's Winter Retreat was hosted at Hidden Acres February 28 – March 2.

Five members of St Philip's attended the retreat, which was focussed on Matthew 22:34-40, themed 'Oh Snap!'.

Unfortunately outdoor activities were hampered by cold weather and flurries. Multiple rounds of dodge ball were played before the chill set in, and several opportunities for craft and creativity presented themselves throughout the weekend in place of the outdoor activities. Meditative worship on Saturday night, as was Sunday worship, were very well received, and a great time was had by all!

New Office Administrator

We are excited to announce that we were joined by Charlotte Kertrestel who took over the role of Office Administrator on March 10.

Charlotte comes to us with communications experience and positions with administrative responsibilities. She graduated from Durham University, UK in 2012.

Charlotte will be a great addition to our team in this key role in how St Philip's functions. Please make her feel welcome.

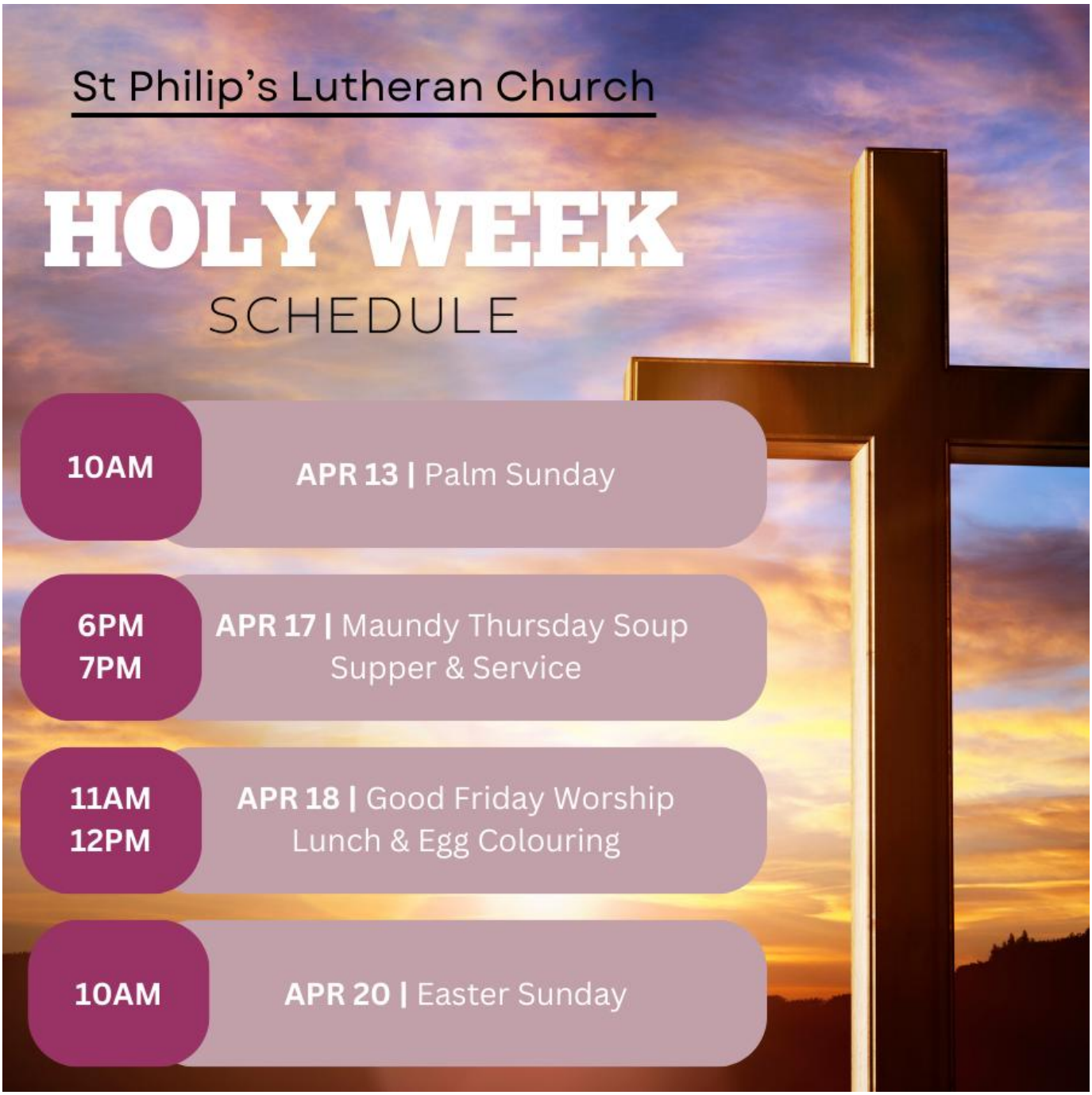
Holy Baptism celebration | 22 March

On Saturday 21st March, the children of Ellen and Alessia Gallipoli van Rensburg, Lucia and Charles, were baptized in the presence of their closest family and friends.

WHAT'S ON @ ST. PHILIP'S

April 2025

Holy Week Services



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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.

Messy Church Egg Colouring | Friday 18 April | 12pm

All are welcome! All ages. Please let us know you're coming so we can set the table for you. Sign up on the bulletin board or email us at stphilipsmessychurch@gmail.com.

Sign up for the 50+ Spring Fling Luncheon

All are welcome! Sign up on the bulletin board or by contacting the Church Office.

ST. PHILIP'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH