



**Dear member of our ESG church family:**

ESG is actively rebuilding as we live out our Growth, Leadership & Extravagant Welcome mandate. After two years of uncertainty, we look forward to joining together in person.

Worship Online has kept us connected and will continue to do so. Many people continue to enjoy ESG live-streamed services from homes near and far. But we encourage you to join us in person as often as possible. We know the value and the strength of a church community gathered. The resonance of song in our church home and our hearts changes us as we engage in the sacred act of worship.

Being here in person helps us engage, encourage and do life together in very meaningful ways. It makes a difference when you are here!

This Program Guide describes many opportunities to connect with others at worship, programs and special events at ESG. Please add them to your calendars and share this resource with people that might be interested, and invite them to join you!

**Blessings from the ESG Staff & Leadership!**

**Learn more online**

**Esgunited.org/events/list**

Visit our website regularly to find out about scheduled services and events.

**Add events to your Google Calendar**

The online Events Listing allows you to add events directly to your online calendar.

**Join the ESG email list**

Subscribe at [esgunited.org/newsletters](http://esgunited.org/newsletters) for weekly emails with details about upcoming services, events, online gatherings and outreach initiatives at ESG.

**UPCOMING DATES**

- Sep 11 Welcome Back BBQ
- Sep 25 Orange Shirt Day
- Oct 2 World Communion
- Oct 9 Thanksgiving Sunday
- Oct 15 Rummage Sale
- Oct 16 Annual Congregational Meeting
- Oct 30 All Saints
- Nov 6 Remembrance Sunday
- Nov 13 Renovation 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service
- Nov 27 Advent 1 Communion
- Dec 2 Family Christmas & Carolling Party
- Dec 4 Fair Trade Fair & Cookies in a Jar
- Dec 11 Carolling Service & Choir Concert
- Dec 18 Pageant
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve at 5 & 9 pm
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service
- Jan 1 New Year's Day Communion
- Feb 21 Pancake Supper
- Feb 23 Pink Shirt Day
- Apr 15 Rummage Sale
- May 7 Choir Concert
- May 28 Pentecost Communion
- June 4 Church Picnic

**SUMMER**

**Community Garden**

Five students are tending our 12 garden plots, financially supported by Canada Summer Jobs.

**Summer Worship**

Each Sunday from July 4 – September 4, LIVE in the sanctuary and ONLINE at 10:30 a.m.

**Summer Choir Camp (Aug 29-Sep 2)**

Young people ages 7 – 15 at VOX Choir camp will learn new instruments, create their stage presence, and more! \$100 registration fee (bursary available). Contact MJ at [VOX@esgunited.org](mailto:VOX@esgunited.org). (9-3 Daily)

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ESG is an inclusive and welcoming congregation. Persons of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnic background, or economic circumstances are welcome to take part in every aspect of church life

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## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

### Sunday Morning Worship (10:30 a.m.)

The CENTRE of our worshipping community of faith –  
**It makes a difference when you are here!**

### Evensong Services (6 p.m.)

A meditative service of prayer and song

- Oct 20, Nov 10, Dec 15 (Christmas in a Minor Key)
- Jan 4, Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 6, May 18

### Love aLIVE events (5 p.m.)

Everyone is welcome to Love aLIVE, **an online dinner church series**, kids included. We'll have a break-out room to share in their guided activities. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

- Oct 23, Nov 20, Dec 18
- Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 26, Apr 23, May 28

### New Expressions Sundays

Explore new styles of music and faith expression involving a new generation.

- Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20
- Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 19

### Choir Resumes in September!

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### Family Christmas & Carolling Party

Mark your calendar for the Dec 2 fun and festive event for all ages. Children can enjoy food and crafts downstairs. Youth will decorate the sanctuary tree and enjoy food and drinks. Adults can celebrate with wine, savoury food and carol signing.

### Theme - from Generation to Generation

- Nov 27 Advent 1 Communion
- Dec 4 Advent 2 Gifts & Almond Bark  
Fair Trade Fair & Cookies in a Jar
- Dec 11 Advent 3 Carol service  
ESG Choir Christmas Concert
- Dec 15 Christmas in a Minor Key
- Dec 18 Advent 4 Pageant
- Dec 24 5 p.m. Glow sticks and stars  
9 p.m. Candles and Communion
- Dec 25 Christmas Day 10:30 a.m. Service

### New Years Theme – Recalibrate

- Jan 1 Auld Lang Syne Communion

## LENT & EASTER

- Feb 26 Lent 1 Communion
- Apr 9 Palm Sunday Service  
Children's Neighbourhood Parade
- Apr 6 Maundy Thursday (6 p.m.)
- Apr 7 Good Friday (10:30 a.m.)
- Apr 9 Easter Sunday

## WORSHIP THEMES

### September – Welcome Back

Jesus calms the storm, sends out the disciples and speaks of the blessings of life in the beatitudes.

*Where have you experienced the storm, the response and the blessing?*

### October – Thankful Connections

*What connections are you grateful for?*

### December – Generation to Generation

*What is your family Christmas Story passed down through generations?*

### January – A New Year – Recalibrate

*Rather than giving in to fear in unsettling moments – where did you take action to live out your faith?*

### Feb – March – Seeking Lent:

### Honest Questions for a Deeper Faith

*Where are you seeking connection, answers, wonder or justice right now?*

### April – May – The Artistry of God

*Where do you see beauty?  
How do you create beauty?  
What does that connection mean to you?  
How do you experience God in it?*

### Pentecost

*Where do you feel the spirit Encourages,  
Supports & Challenges you?*

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*Share this resource and  
help others find  
community at ESG.*

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*Help spread the word about the opportunities for discovery at ESG.*

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## FAMILY MINISTRY

### Family Ministry Programs

Our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Kate Littler, teaches Sunday School with Lita, offering nursery care each week during worship with creative crafts, activities, interactive programming, games, science experiments, and creative crafts.

ESG is an Affirming congregation. Our curriculum, toys, and books reflect the diverse families we serve.

We plan special events for children and families throughout the year.

### Youth Program

The youth program will happen mostly in person (with a little bit online as needed) at the church during the service at 10:30. The program will allow youth to explore life and faith through activities, outreach and volunteer opportunities, as well as outings like hikes, skating and frisbee. In addition, there will be bi-monthly "just for fun" gatherings on Friday evenings.

Miranda Crabtree is serving as our Youth Leader in the upcoming year. As a youth group alum, Miranda knows the program and youth of the church well.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Engage with others, and explore questions about life and faith.

**Stories from my Life:** Writing and sharing lifetime memories in a small group setting. Sep 14, 21, 28 & Oct 5 from 2-4 p.m. Led by Bonnie Joynt.

**Anti-racism and Indigenous studies:** book discussion group in the fall. Led by Mary Thomson.

**Career Development, Mental Health, and Mentoring:** speaker series and mentorship program for adults 19-35 years starts this fall. Led by Suzan Samivand.

**Spiritual Book Study:** Faith After Doubt by Brian McLaren. Scheduled for Jan 31, Feb 7 & 14. Led by Janet Hardy.

**Exploring our Faith:** Discussion group designed to kick your faith tires. Planned for Winter 2023. Led by Jim Black and Janet Hardy.

## COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE

The Compassionate Justice speaker series returns for its 11th year from Oct 2022 – Feb 2023.

Over the years, the principal focus of the series has been all aspects of our criminal justice system and selected other topics such as the Truth and Reconciliation experience.

Join us for another season of unique public speaking events with renowned and inspiring speakers. All events are at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays following the service.

- Oct 23 Bill Trudell
- Nov 20 Doug Saunders
- Jan 22 Lisa Kerr
- Feb 19 Erin Dann

## OUTREACH

### ESG Little Free Pantry

"Take what you need: give what you are able."

Our little Free Pantry helps those experiencing food insecurity. It is a small step towards alleviating the pressing need for food or personal care items. Community participation helps keep it stocked.

ESG Food Drive the weekend before Thanksgiving.

### The Good Food Box Program

The Good Food Box program helps provide neighbourhoods experiencing food insecurity with healthy, fresh produce. Your weekly subscription to a weekly box of fruits and vegetables shares fresh food with those experiencing food insecurity.

Food Boxes arrive weekly on Thursday morning.

### Welcome Baskets (Oct/Nov)

ESG Outreach and the North Toronto Cluster of churches create Welcome Baskets for homeless people who have been living in local shelters but are transitioning to permanent housing.

### Winter Coats, Clothes & Accessories

Collection days and sorting always need volunteers and drivers to deliver items to the different agencies.

### WE Care: Survival Kits

A project initiated by one of our members provides survival kits for homeless folks. We need volunteers for this worthwhile endeavour. All donations are gratefully received. Stay tuned!

**IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE WHEN YOU ARE HERE**

## CULTURAL KITCHEN PARTY

Celebrate diversity, nurture your soul, and learn to cook a new dish. Our host will lead a small group through the preparation of a meal special to their family or cultural background. (4 events are planned)

## COFFEE & NAMETAGS

As we return – in person – we're introducing a new opportunity to connect with self-serve coffee available before AND after the service, with easy access to coffee, tea and snacks from a new coffee trolley at the base of the stairs to the balcony. From 10 a.m. on – An excellent opportunity to renew and form new friendships! Come early, come often, coffee's on!

Additionally, you will find fresh new name tags with our updated ESG branding, large, easy-to-read print and a magnetized clasp to protect your clothing as you securely hold your name tag.

## FOOD JUSTICE SERIES

Starting in October, as part of our Food Ministry, we will launch a four-week Food Justice Cooking Series for families of all ages to participate. Through this series, we will cook and eat together while learning about food justice issues, such as food insecurity within our community and how food relates to climate justice. It will be educational and fun!

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On Nov 13, 2022, we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our move back into the renovated church building at 35 Lytton Blvd – our church home. Dr Fred Graham returns to offer the message.



## STAFFING & ACCESS

### Building Access

The accessible main entrance doors have a new keypad with a button that calls our on-duty caretaker's cell phone for immediate assistance. The system also allows for daytime building access with a code.

### Building Hours of operation

Our caretaking staff will be onsite during regular church hours of operation. The church will generally be open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Staff Contact Information

#### Rev Dr Paul Hutchison

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