



The Mustard Seed

May 2025

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

47 McLachlin St. S., Arnprior
Ontario K7S 2Z1

Church Council

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See us on facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior
On the web: stjohnsarnprior.com

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is smaller than all seeds. But when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches." - Matthew 13: 31-32

Message from our Pastor

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter season!

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" (John 20 v 15)

What a wonder-filled time of year we are in. Spring is starting, ever so slowly - the nights still hold the winter chill. The days are getting longer, and for many, the changing season marks a changing time of life. Some will celebrate graduations, weddings and baptisms. The season of happy occasions and new beginnings are starting. It is the season of love! As you read this Graham and I are on our way to celebrate the wedding of his niece in Australia, stopping along the way in Germany, where I will see my cousins and aunt for the first time in over 40 years, followed by some exploring in Malaysia before landing in Perth. A trip of my lifetime, and a time to reflect on the resurrection, the world God has made that is so much larger than I know, and to embrace curiosity of where God is throughout the world.

So it is with faith. Ever-changing, and yet, always present in all that we do.

We observed Lent as faithfully as possible during a time of unimaginable evil unfolding south of the border. Our sacred scripture took on new meaning as we watched, and continue to watch horrific acts of oppression and evil unfold. Many fear for friends and neighbours in the south, others mourn the loss of relationships and visits.

We have celebrated the resurrection of Christ, the promise of new life.

"Why are you weeping?" Why?

The time of beginning new ways of love is all around us if we look- animals are building nests, fawns and cubs are

Message from our Pastor, continued

being born, and it won't be long before the bees are busy tending hives. New life in the midst of it.

We are called to follow Christ out from the tomb of despair and into the new life that is ours. It is true, we weep for all that is happening in the world, even as we do our part in any way we can to be a sign of hope, an act of compassion, and a reflection of God's love in the midst of it. It is the season of hope, of renewal, and wonder.

It is my prayer that our lives are in step with God's plan for renewal and fresh energy as we enter into the season looking for love - love of God and love of one another, needed now - perhaps more than ever in our lifetimes.

In service with thanksgiving,

rev sylvia

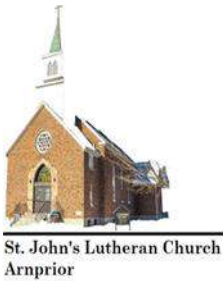
PS - if you are in need of pastoral care while we are away, please don't hesitate to contact your council chair who will work with supporting local clergy to offer care.

**“If I cannot do
great things, I can
do SMALL things
in a great way.”**

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

May 2025 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Muslim Community	Weekly Prayers: 1:00-2:00 p.m.— each Friday in the Lounge.
Wednesday's	6:00 p.m. — Dance and Yoga in the Hall
Sunday School	May 18th
UNPLUG	May 18th—1:00p.m.—3:00p.m. — Zimmerling Farm
Sunday April 27th	10:30 a.m.—Worship Service – Lay Leader: Karen Greening
Sunday May 4th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service – Lay Leader: Andy Kalnins – Music: Lynne Z. – Social: Barbara LeBlanc's Birthday
Sunday May 11th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service – Lay Leaders: Andy and Enid – Music: Lynne Z.
Saturday May 17th	9:00a.m.—Men's Breakfast at Jim's
Sunday May 18th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion – Music: Sylvia E. – Sunday School—Mellissa – UNPLUG: 1:00p.m.—3:00p.m.
Monday May 19th	1:00p.m.—Church Council Meets
Sunday May 25th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion – Music: Sylvia E.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior

Draft Minutes of April 14th, 2025 Council Meeting

Attendance:

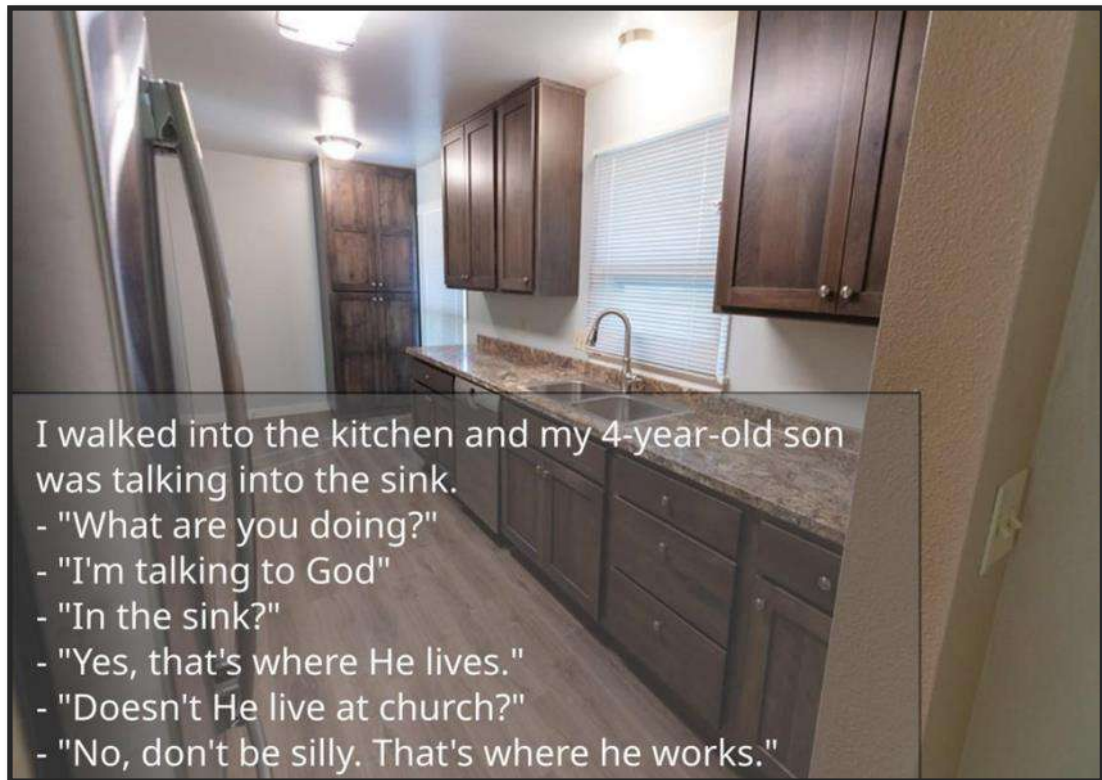
Pr. Sylvia Poetschke	Karen Greening	Melissa Watt (regrets)
Andy Kalnins	Debbie Witt	Fred Steinke
Enid Blackwell		

Meeting called to order 1:00 pm. Andy welcomed all. Pr. Sylvia opened with a prayer & lighting of a candle for holy week.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the March 17, 2025 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Fred, CARRIED.
2. **Holy Week and Beyond:** Everything seems to be in place for Holy Week and the breakfast is being organized. When pastor is away the bulletins have been taken care of; April 27 Karen Greening will be the lead; May 4 Andy will lead; May 11 (Mothers Day) Andy and Enid lead. The Bulletin for May 18 (Pr. Sylvia's first Sunday back) is to be printed. Pastor Sylvia will be attending a Confirmation Camp July 6-11 but will be available for any emergencies. There is one person to be confirmed from St. James. Music schedule has been arranged to June 15 by Randy. He asked if someone else could take over for the summer. He may resume in September given a second volunteer to assist. Very relaxed services are planned for the summer in the basement.
3. **Finances:** Commitments received to date are \$27,504 including \$11,000 in memoriams. \$20,000 was put in a Charitus Investment account. Bank balance March 31 is \$24,441. Fundraisers of Dance and yoga continue. Utilities increased a bit over the winter for heat. Enid motioned that the financial report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Karen. CARRIED.
4. **Property:** Scheduling of lawn cutting is being worked on.
5. **Major Topics:** May topic will be "Church Safety" for insurance, youth and vulnerable persons to be discussed in length.
6. **Pastoral Care:** On April 11 Enid, Debbie, Karen and Maureen met at the church and assembled Easter Platters which were delivered and appreciated by all who received them. Thank you to Karen and Maureen who helped and contributed baking for this. Thank you to Phoenix who coloured the greeting cards.
7. **Youth:** Vacation Bible Camp will be held August 11-15. Alison asked if council members would consider volunteering for this. Members able to will contact Alison.
8. **Meeting closure:** Meeting closed with a prayer offered by Pr. Sylvia.

Next regular meeting: Monday, May 19, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Humour



God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?"

The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God says, "I think I'll call it a day."



Pastor Sylvia's Absence

Pastor Sylvia and Graham are embarking on a long-planned family trip ,and she will not be leading a service until Sunday May 18th, 2025. In her absence. we will be having lay lead services and there will be no Holy Communion.

There will be a pause on normal pastoral visits until the return of Pastor Sylvia. If there is a need for emergency pastoral care, be it for a critical illness or something else, please contact Andy Kalnins or Enid Blackwell. The church phone and messages will be, as always, monitored by Debbie Witt.

Andy Kalnins

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Enid Blackwell

613-623-7017

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We all wish that Sylvia and Graham have a safe and blessed vacation and we look forward to tales of travel and experienced gained.



We have been fortunate to have 4 wonderful musicians supplying music on either the organ or piano for Sunday worship. Lynne, Craig, Sylvia and on special occasions Karen from St. James have all shared their musical talents with us. The current plan is for live music to take a break after June 15 and resume again in the fall. In the meantime, if there is a favourite hymn you would like to be included in an upcoming worship service, please let me know either in person or by email at randyzimmerling@hotmail.com and we will do our bet to incorporate as many as we can in the future.

Thank you, Randy.

Joint Easter message from the Acting Primate and National Bishop



As Holy Week approaches, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) National Bishop Susan C. Johnson and Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) Acting Primate Archbishop Anne Germond share a joint Easter message as they reflect on the new world order put in place by Christ's resurrection. ELCIC member congregations are welcome to download and include this Easter message in their worship services. To view and download in various file sizes and formats, please [click here](#)



Volunteers needed!

WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS!



Please consider sharing your time and talents to support the ongoing ministry of St. John's. No experience is needed, just a willingness to get involved.

Help is needed:

Worship planning: Randy is looking for a few collaborators in sharing the planning and support of music ministry - everything from choosing hymns to helping coordinate with musicians. Dave is on deck to support with recorded music as part of the rotation but we are open to ideas to enrich the services. Summer time is relaxed and perfect for a few guitars to lead us in favourite gospel/folk songs. Don't hesitate to ask Pastor, Randy or Dave how you can be a part of worship planning and service! The mini-worship committee needs help as well to plan worship season-by-season.

Vacation Bible Camp

Vacation Bible Camp is running mornings of August 11-15 with a pretty great theme of "Operation Restoration". This VBS invites kids to be menders in God's world. As they make connections between Bible stories and mending actions, they'll discover simple ways to live out faith in daily life. Everyone at Operation Restoration explores language and practices to mend God's world. The daily sub-themes will be "Feed", "Heal", "Care", "Prayer" and "Sabbath or Rest". We're looking for adults of any age who would like to get involved. We're asking for just 1 morning although you're welcome to do more. If this might appeal to you, please talk to Alison and we'll find you a place that fits your interests.

Mirror Wanted

Dance and Yoga group is still seeking one more mirror, 24" by 32" (or somewhat longer than 32") to complete the mirror array downstairs.

Thanks, if you or a friend may have one. See Jeff or Enid.



Youth

May 18 - Sunday School

May 18 - UNPLUG

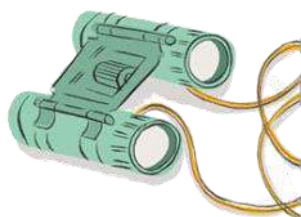


"UNPLUG - NATURE DETECTIVES"

May 18, 1:00 – 3:00

Would you like to be part of a group who once a month, comes with your parent or grandparent and joins other kids for adventures in nature? You'll be Nature Detectives – you'll **explore** different outdoor spaces each event and will learn how to identify plants, rocks, insects, birds and animals or their tracks. You'll get to know the waterways around our area. You'll observe the clouds and weather each event and watch for the season changes. You'll learn how to quickly sketch your nature observations so you can come back and use field guides to identify what you saw. Some insects and water critters you'll catch, identify, and release. You'll **make** some great things: walking stick, things from mud, bird feeder, weather vane, a toad home are just some of the ideas. And each day you'll take part in fun, nature-themed **games**. You won't be bored!

On May 18th, we'll **explore** the woods at the Zimmerling Farm and find a good stick to be your personalized walking stick. A walking stick is a helpful tool for hiking and exploring and using for balance as you jump over a small ditch or navigate over rocky land. Your stick will help you clear your path of small branches, vines or even spider webs; you can test thick layers of leaves for animals and check the depth of streams or large puddles with your stick before walking through. After finding your **perfect stick**, you'll sand it, add a handgrip to it, and mark the stick so you can use it to measure things. (We'll encourage you to decorate it at home before the next UNPLUG event and don't forget to bring it back!) We'll end our day with a great outdoor game.



To register, email UNPLUG.SJL@GMAIL.COM or call / Text Alison at **613-618-5716**.

thank you

St. John's Easter Breakfast

Including our helpers, we fed approximately 30 adults and children prior to our Easter Sunday service. Folks seemed to enjoy the menu of bacon, sausage, pancakes and eggs and the opportunity to visit before worship. Donations were gratefully received in support of CLWR. Special thanks to the men and women who worked in the kitchen in food preparation, food service and clean up. Thank you for all your support.

The Easter Breakfast Team.

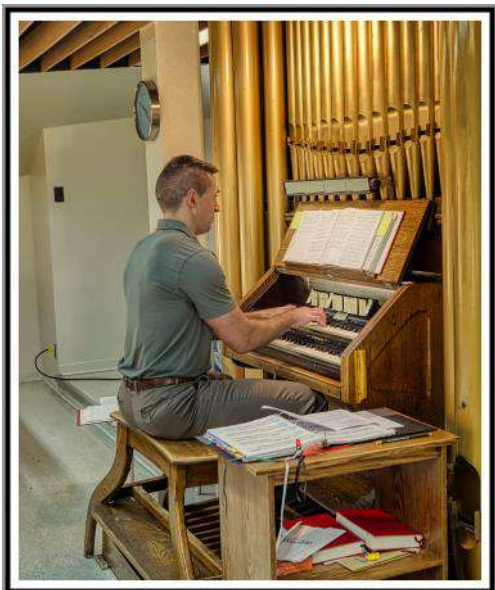


Easter Flowers

**Thanks to Andy Kalnins for the Easter Flowers.
They were in memory of his aunt who passed away recently at 101.**

Photos, Courtesy of Lorne R. & Enid

Craig Burkett playing at the Easter Service.



Wave the branches and let the parade of children begin.



Signs of Spring!





VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

May 2025

DATE	READER	ALTAR	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	MUSIC	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL
May 4 th	Bob Witt	Joanne & Lorne		Lynne Zander	Andy & Cory	Marion & Ellmer	Alison & Dave B. (Barbara L.)
May 11 th	Debbie/Jeff Kargus	Joanne & Lorne		Lynne Zander	Lorne & Maureen	Marion & Ellmer	
May 18 th	Karen Greening	Joanne & Lorne	Andy Kalnins	Sylvia E.	Andy & Cory	Marion & Ellmer	TBC
May 25 th	Cheryl Supple	Joanne & Lorne	Karen Greening	Sylvia E.	Lorne & Maureen	Marion & Ellmer	

May 2025



BIRTHDAYS

May 2nd—Karen Greening

May 2nd—Melissa Kargus

May 15th—Andy Kalnins

May 23rd—Paula Mainprize

May 25th—Keith Richardson

May 26th—Clara Zimmerling

May 28th—Marion Bretzlaff

May 20th—Lorne & Maureen Rueckwald

May 21st—Keith & Beryl Richardson