The Mustard Seed



November 2026 Newsletter

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

47 McLachlin Street South, Arnprior, Ontario
K7S 2Z1

"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 it branches"

Matthew 13:31-32

Contact Information

Church Office Phone Number: 613-623-4562

You can find us on:
Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior
Web: stjohnsarnprior.com



Church Council

Ryan Zimmerling (Chair)	613-978-3900
Mellissa Watt	613-858-9932
Cheryl Supple	613-623-4514
Dave Burkett	613-618-5729
Cathy Zimmerling	613-899-8503

Pastoral Care
Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Ritva Williams 613-408-2087

For pastoral emergency please contact Randy Zimmerling

Getting involved at St. John's

A question that pulls us in many directions - church, family, community and friends - how can we help.

There are many avenues in the church that need help……most activities / jobs actually take very little time - to a few chores that might take an hour or so. You might want to consider reading the lessons and prayers during the service? Are you interested in helping with the children and their lessons? Is hospitality your thing, bringing snacks/goodies for coffee hour, do you like meal planning?

It is the perfect time to get involved at St. John's. We all benefit when we share our time, talent and treasure with one another. Interested in seeing/starting something new, or bring back an old favorite item? Share your idea with one another, council and the pastor!

St. John's Vision Statement: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a welcoming, compassionate fellowship of believers who serve God through joyful outreach and stewardship of the gifts of grace.

St. John's Mission Statement: Our mission is to minister to the needs of this diverse community. To be a vibrant, visible and growing congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada by engaging in effective evangelism and service in our community.

Pastor's Message



This is a diagram of the church year and its colourful seasons. The new church year begins with the 4 Sundays of Advent when we dress the altar in blue of hope. We switch to white and gold to celebrate Christ's birth over the 12 days that begin Christmas Eve (December 24) and end at Epiphany (January 6). We dress the church in green for the 6 Sundays after Epiphany as we reflect on Christ's revelation to the world. Ash Wednesday with its crosses of ashes marks the beginning of purple Lent, culminating in Holy Week as we remember and relive the last days of Jesus' earthly life. Easter morning finds the tomb empty, and ushers in a 7 week celebration of the resurrection when the church is again dressed in white and gold. The Holy Spirit flames bright red at Pentecost, then soft white for Holy Trinity Sunday. Half a year of green Sundays come after Pentecost. Lutherans mark October 31in red for the Reformation. November is the end of the church year and is framed by All Saints Sunday and Christ the King Sunday (both in white). Rinse and repeat every year.

So… here we are in the final weeks of this church year a.k.a. "Year A" when we focus on Matthew's gospel. In our culture as one year ends and another begins it is typical to reflect on what we have done and make resolutions to do better in the new year. The month of November in the church calendar has a similar function. We begin on the first Sunday of this month lifting up "all saints" — all God's children, born in God's image. Hence our worship begins with Thanksgiving for Baptism, the sacrament in which Christ names and claims each of us as saints. We include a Rite of Remembrance giving thanks for saints whose earthly journeys have been completed during the last twelve months.

You might have noticed the return of some traditional elements to our worship. Most Sundays worship begins with Confession and Forgiveness, as we admit that each of us personally and all of us together often have our priorities mixed up. God responds with the gospel news of Christ's forgiveness, encouraging us to do our best. The Apostles' Creed, which is really a pledge of allegiance, reminds us who we are and whose we are, and is intended to help us stay in right alignment with God and one another. The canticle of praise in this season and in Advent begins with the words of the angels who sang at Christ's birth: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth." Pssst … don't tell anyone but we're already in inching toward Christmas!

In the fading of the summer sun, the shortening of days,
cooling breeze, swallows' flight and moonlight rays,
we see the Creator's hand.
In the browning of leaves once green, morning mists,
autumn chill, fruit that falls, frost's first kiss,
we see the Creator's hand.
Creator God, open our eyes
to see the endless cycle of life and death and rebirth,
our lips to praise the wonder of this world,
our hands to share your bounty,
and may our feet tread lightly on the road.

(adapted from "A Christian Liturgy for Samhain, faithandworship.com)

Pastor Ritva

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior
Minutes of October 7th, 2026 Council Meeting (Via Zoom)

Approved on Oct 22, 2026

Pastor Ritva		
Ryan Zimmerling	Mellissa Watt (regrets)	Cheryl Supple
Dave Burkett	Cathy Zimmerling	

Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Pastor Ritva opened with devotions.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Ryan moved that the agenda be adopted as presented, Cheryl Supple seconded, CARRIED.
2. **Approval of Sept 13th, 2026 council meeting minutes:** – Ryan pointed out that the minutes published missed something: "*Ryan then asked Council to explore alternatives prior to the next council meeting*". Ryan moved that the minutes be approved as amended and Cheryl Supple seconded, CARRIED.
3. **Council Meetings**: Council agreed that we would hold in-person meetings every second month, and deal with any issues between meetings via e-mail voting. It was noted that the constitution references a policy outlining the protocol for conducting email voting. Dave to determine if we have such a policy.
4. **Facility Rental:** Ryan reported a request for rental of the Lounge for Sundays at 1:00pm. There was a discussion around the timing, as sometimes the Altar activities require the lounge past 1:00pm. Ryan to send Cheryl the contact information so that Cheryl could discuss adjusting the time. Music in motion is adding back Wednesday evening sessions.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Ryan has received the credit card in the name of St. John's. Ryan to determine who should have access to the card. Ryan reported that the phone contract with Bell was renegotiated resulting in a lower monthly cost and a rebate for being overcharged. Ryan reported on the Finances as of end of July 2026. Total Income was $40,938 for the period and Expenses were $34,915. The bank balance is $20,053, and investment balance with Charitus is $79,624 with an additional GIC of $5,049.
6. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ritva outlined the worship schedule and noted that more work is to be done recruiting volunteers. Pastor reviewed a list of "values". It is planned to schedule a working session with the congregation to review which values matter most to St. John's. This will be held early in the new year.
7. **Property:** Randy is organizing the winterization tasks for the church, including air conditioner, humidifier filters, furnace maintenance, organ tuning and chair lift inspection. Randy noted that there is a brick missing beneath the roof line of the main church. Plans are being made for repair.
8. **Additional Business –** Motions via email following the Oct 7th council meeting:
   - On October 10, 2026, Mellissa Watt moved that council approve a one-year agreement rental of the Lounge for French lessons on Sundays 1:30-3:30 beginning November 8th, 2026. Seconded by Cheryl Supple. All council members replied via email that they agreed with the motion, and Ryan declared the motion approved on Oct 11, 2026.
   - On September 30th, 2026, council received a recommendation from Randy Zimmerling, on behalf of the Property Committee, that we proceed with signing a newly negotiated contract with Bell for 3-years at a reduced price and a rebate. Council members all agreed with the Property committee's recommendation and authorized signing the new contract.
   - On October 22nd 2026, Cathy Zimmerling moved that the Draft Minutes of the Oct 7th Council Meeting be accepted as amended, Dave Burkett Seconded. Council members all agreed with the motion.

Meeting closure: Meeting closed with prayer. Next regular meeting will be December 6th, following service.



November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **All Saints Day** 10:30 Holy Communion Sunday School Social	**2**	**3**	**4** **9:30-2:30** Pastor Ritva in office Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion	**5**	**6** 1-2pm Muslim Community Mel Bretzlaff	**7**
8 **24th Sunday after Pentecost** 10:30 Holy Communion 1:30 – 3pm Français	**9**	**10**	**11** **9:30-2:30** Pastor Ritva in office **Remembrance Day** Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion	**12** Bartly Roberts	**13** 1-2pm Muslim Community	**14**
15 **25th Sunday after Pentecost** 10:30 Holy Communion Social 1:30 – 3pm Français	**16**	**17**	**18** Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion 6 pm Music 'n Motion Nathan Brohart	**19**	**20** 1-2pm Muslim Community Bob Witt	**21** 9 am Men's Breakfast at Jim's Restaurant
22 **Christ the King** 10:30 Service of the Word Ryan Zimmerling 1:30 – 3pm Français	**23**	**24**	**25** **9:30-2:30** Pastor Ritva in office Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion 6 pm Music 'n Motion	**26**	**27** 1-2pm Muslim Community	**28**
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** 10:30 Holy Communion 1:30 – 3pm Français	**30**					

November Birthday Celebrations



Nov 6th Mel Bretzlaff
Nov 12th Bartly Roberts
Nov 18th Nathan Brohart
Nov 20th Bob Witt

Volunteer Schedule – November

Date	Ushers / Greeters	Altar Guild	Reader	Communion Assistant	Music	Counters	Social
1	Steinke Family	Cheryl S.	Joy Statham	Jeff Kargus	Lynne Z.	Dave & Alison B.	M & M Bretzlaff – Debbie & Jeff
8	Steinke Family	Cheryl S.	Mellissa Watt	Melissa Watt	Lynne Z.	Dave & Alison B.	
15	Steinke Family	Cheryl S.	Seth Malina	Seth Mlina		Dave & Alison B.	Cathy & Jessica
22	Steinke Family	Cheryl S.	Blake/Nate		Craig B.	Dave & Alison B.	
29	Steinke Family	Cheryl S.	Cheryl Supple	Cheryl Supple	Bonnie H.	Dave & Alison B.	

If you would like to assist in any of the above tasks, please contact:

Readers – Bob Witt
Counters – Ryan Zimmerling
Social – Debbie Kargus
Birthdays / Anniversaries – Debbie Witt
Altar Guild – Barb Formuziewich
Communion Assistants – Pastor Norine
Sunday School – Mellissa Watt
Ushers/Greeters – Maureen Rueckwald



Sponsoring Social Coffee Hour

Are you interested in helping with a social after service but are unable to host the social yourself - why not consider donating towards a social and leave the hosting up to someone else!
Your donation could be:

- homemade treats
- purchased treats, cheese, crackers or fruit that you bring in
- money to put towards the purchase of treats, cheese, crackers or fruit that the social team picks up

OR, are you able to host a social where the treats are provided by someone else and you do the set-up, make the tea and coffee and clean-up?

OR, perhaps you like fully hosting by providing the treats, setting-up and cleaning-up!

If any of these ideas are a possibility for you, or if you have any questions, please contact Debbie Kargus.

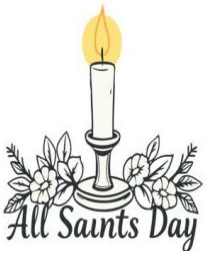
Congregational News / Updates

Altar Guild – Anyone who is interested in learning about Altar Guild and helping, please chat with Barb Formuziewich.



Pastor Ritva is in the church office on most Wednesdays from 9:30 am-2:30pm for anyone to drop in, call her, and/or arrange for visits. Please check the calendar for specific dates.

All Saints Day



The festival focuses on the "Church Triumphant" (those who have finished their earthly race and live eternally with God) and gives thanks for everyone who has gone before in the faith.

Some of the common practices in Lutheran worship include:

- Reading of Names:
- Candles and Bells:
- The Lord's Supper:

Special thanks to Lorne, Lynn and Beryl for coordinating the replacing of the series of confirmation photos.



"Our Lutheran Confirmation Wall" Celebrating the confirmands of our congregation — from its earliest beginnings to the present — who have publicly affirmed their baptismal faith and joined the fellowship of believers.

Music 'n Motion Program at St. John's



The Music 'n Motion community program led by Veronic Bertrand has returned to every Wednesday from noon till 1pm. We are also pleased to announce that now in November this group will be adding a new additional time – Wednesday's at 6pm.
This evening time will give an opportunity for a younger crowd, including teens, and working folks to get together and have fun, gradually learning a new dance over every 3 week period. Free will donations as you can.

If you have any questions about the Music 'n Motion please send questions directly to Veronic at: lovely_veronic@hotmail.com.'

Français Avec Veronic

Group classes for those with basic to intermediate French skill interested in refreshing their French oral, writing, reading and improvisation skills, will begin here at St. John's. The group will use the Lounge with the focus on learning with fun! Classes will begin on November 8 and continue every Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 3pm. With a cost of $15 per session. Feel free to contact Veronic, **lovely_veronic@hotmail.com**, for more about her background, plans and your needs. Please share this news on to those who may be interested. And why not try out this learning opportunity yourself?



Father Rick Durrett once gain joined by leading 2 of our services in October.
Here he is gowned at the Reformation Sunday service.



Remembrance Day 2026 marks the 108th anniversary of the World War I armistice. Wearing a red poppy on your left lapel as a symbol of remembrance, inspired by the poem *"In Flanders Fields"*.

Community Events

Nov 3 **Beginner Sewing classes at the NeighborLink Fountain**
No experience required; no cost; no equipment needed! Join an experienced sewer and learn some basic skills.
In their Meeting room every Tuesday morning from 10-1pm.

Nov 4 **The Lunch Bunch** is hosted by the Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home
Noon till 2pm at the Arnprior Legion
Cost is $15.00 which includes sandwich, soup, dessert and entertainment
Tickets need to be purchased by Oct 2nd at the Seniors At Home office

Nov 9 Tickets sales begin for the **Annual Seniors Christmas Party**
December 11 from noon to 2 pm
Held at St. John Chrysostom Parish Hall
Entertainment by The Five of Hearts

Nov 20 **Christmas Gala Seniors Social Dance**
Celebrate the holiday season with an evening of music, dancing and holiday cheer
Held at the Murray Yantha Community Centre
Entertainment by the Gib Rozon Band
Tickets are $10 each – at the McNabb/Braeside Municipal office or at the Event
A delicious snack table will be available throughout the evening with the bar open for beverage purchases.

Nov 21 **Ever After Ball**
An enchanting afternoon with princess meet & greets, dancing, crafts, and activities in support of Teachers Against Poverty (TAP)
Designed with children up to age 7 in mind, but all ages are warmly welcome.
Presented by Valley Play Indoor Play Centre
Will take place at 295 Albert St, the Catholic Parish Hall
All proceeds from the event will directly benefit Teachers Against Poverty.

Nov 27 **White Lake Christmas Parade and Dance**

Nov 28 **Arnprior Optimist Club Santa Claus Parade**
Starting at 4 pm

Don't forget our friends from the NeighbourLink Fountain in Arnprior. They are located at 128 Mary Street. Open Monday, Tuesday Thursday from 10 – 2 for homemade lunch, resources, shopping. On Saturdays they are open only for shopping – boutique from 10-2.



PRAYER LIST

Please include these people in your daily prayers.
Rory, Gerald, Stella, Jacqueline, Vicki, Joy, Tere, Briar, Oliva, Claude, Debbie & Bob W.

Bible

Its light is like the body
of heaven in it clearness;
its vastness like the bosom
of the sea;
its variety like scenes
of nature.

John Henry Newman

Journey's End

We go from God to God – then through
The way be long,
We shall return to Heaven our home
At evensong.

We go from God to God – so let
The space between
Be filled with beauty, conquering
Things base and mean.

We go from God to God – lo! what
Transcendent bliss,
To know the journey's end will hold
Such joy as this!

Evelyn H. Healey

Newsletter Submissions

Hello everyone, please send any updates or new information you would like to add to the newsletter to Lynn by the 25th of each month. Submissions can be sent to Lynn by email at larosien@hotmail.com or you can give her a call at 613-621-1966.

