

The Mustard Seed



September 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: stjohsarnprior.com



Church Council

Ryan Zimmerling (Chair)	613-978-3900
Melissa 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
Assistant Pastor Rev. Norine Gullens	613-282-5032

For pastoral emergency please contact Pastor Norine first.

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!

Pastor's Message

Christ himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

This was one of my ordination Scripture readings. I have always felt the underlined section spoke directly to me, naming my strengths, and identifying the purpose of the ministry to which God was calling me. This remains my personal mission as Interim Pastor at St John's: equip the saints (YOU!) for the work of ministry and building up the body of Christ here in Arnprior.

As Ryan explains in his article, Interim Pastors are appointed as transitional leaders during times of pastoral vacancies in congregations. Some of you may remember Pastor Stanley Johnstone who served as Interim Pastor here from 2012-2014 paving the way for you to call Pastor Norine. My prayer is that my time with you will prove to be as beneficial as his was. With that goal in mind, I have spent these first two months listening to current and past leaders, visiting with folk during the Sunday morning socials, praying with & for members who are in hospital or shut-in. I am deeply grateful for the assistance and direction of Pr Norine and Enid Blackwell for making me aware of those in need of pastoral care.

As we move into the fall months, my plan is to work with your parish council to review and assess St John's mission and vision statements, constitution, and policies to determine how they support current and future ministry here, what if anything needs to be revised, and so forth. In the New Year, my goal is to work with council and lay leaders to organize a series of monthly education and information-sharing sessions on Sunday mornings. The specific topics will be determined as we proceed.

A WORD ABOUT WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

We will begin the month on September 6 by celebrating "Creation in Christ Sunday." This is a new ecumenical observance that is being encouraged across the global church. In some denominations and countries, it marks the beginning of 4 week "season of creation." Rooted in some of the oldest Christian tradition, this celebration lifts up God as Creator and reflects on the mystery that all things are made through Christ. It's a chance to pause, give thanks for gift of creation, and consider how faith calls us to care for the world around us. While this theme appears throughout the church year, setting aside a dedicated day helps bring fresh focus and deeper appreciation for God's creative work (adapted from Sundays and Seasons)

During the month of September, we will continue using ELW Setting 10 as our primary liturgy, adding the rite of confession and forgiveness at the beginning of the service. The prayer of confession acknowledges that as human communities, we all fall short in terms of what we have done and what we have not done to uphold our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation. The prayer is followed by the proclamation of the good news that "we have peace with God through Jesus Christ in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life." I'll say more about this on September 6.

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Ritva

Interim Ministry

It is hard to believe that summer has already begun to fade into fall and that most children will be returning to school, whether elementary, secondary, or post-secondary, in about a week. It almost seems to be a contradiction that summer has passed by so quickly, and yet so much has happened since it began a few short months ago. For St. John's, the most significant and time-sensitive event of the summer was addressing the need for interim ministry.

But what exactly is interim ministry? Interim ministry is a temporary arrangement that involves calling a pastor to provide transitional leadership to a congregation during a period of pastoral vacancy. During this interim period, the congregation needs an experienced pastor who can fill the gap, help the congregation and its membership through challenging and difficult times, and provide a continuation in ministry—in preaching and pastoral caring. Such an interim ministry is not just filling a gap but providing a bridge and preparing the congregation for a meaningful future.

Synods provide for the care of congregations during a time of pastoral vacancy through the appointment of an ordained minister based on a contract through a letter of appointment. An interim appointment can be open-ended but must be reviewed every two years.

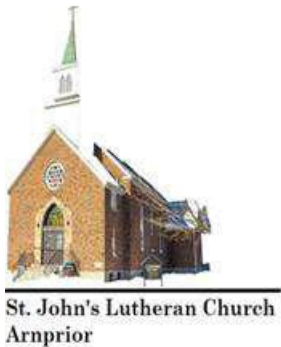
In the case of St. John's, the terms of the letter of appointment limited the total number of payable time that the interim pastor works in a given month. Sunday worship and pastoral care were both deemed a priority by council. Therefore, it was agreed that in a typical month with four Sundays, the interim pastor would preach/preside three times and have 16-17 hours/month for pastoral care, office and administrative work. In months with five Sundays, such as August, preaching/presiding four times will reduce the hours available for pastoral care, office and administrative work to 12 hours for the entire month. For our interim pastor, most of those "work" hours are scheduled for Wednesdays in the office and/or visiting.

St. John's is blessed to have an interim leader who is exceptionally experienced and organized, an excellent communicator, and who has strategic vision. Although the autumn days are getting shorter and the leaves will soon begin to change colour, there is hope and optimism for a bright future at St. John's.

Ryan



Draft Minutes of June 15, 2026 Council Meeting



Attendance:

Pastor Ritva

Ryan Zimmerling

Dave Burkett

Melissa Watt

Cathy Zimmerling

Cheryl Supple

Ryan called the meeting to order 11:45 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 June 15th, 2026 council meeting minutes: – Ryan Zimmerling moved that the minutes be accepted as presented and Cathy Zimmerling seconded, CARRIED.
3. Approval of the minutes of the June 15th in-camera session – Ryan Zimmerling moved that they be adopted as presented, Cathy Zimmerling seconded – CARRIED.
4. Moving to the Basement for the summer – A special email meeting was held for this decision - Ratified on June 30th.
5. Ratification of Pr. Ritva's contract. Ryan presented the details of the contract. David Burkett moved that council accept the contract as written, Melissa Watt seconded, CARRIED.
6. Chairperson's Report: Council went into an in-camera session for the results of the discussion with Synod.
7. Update on the Treasurer – Ryan is assuming the role of Treasurer and is in on-going discussions with Adam Rueckwald (bookkeeper) on the sharing of workload.
8. Pastor's Report:
Pastor Ritva reported continuing conversations regarding her focus, and outlined her plan regarding regular hours. Meetings with the worship team are on-going. Ryan is going to give Pr. Ritva editor privileges for FaceBook. Web site content was discussed.
9. Financial Report: Ryan reviewed a Profit and Loss statement to the end of May. Income was \$30,400 and Expenses were \$24,670.
10. Property:
 - Fred S. has re-parged the front steps and repaired the concrete at the back entrance
 - Thanks to Pr. Norine for assistance on weeding mulching the front garden beds.
 - Town has notified that house which had the fire is to be demolished. This will resolve the danger of flying debris during storms.
 - Thanks to Rex Z. who installed a new solar post lamp at the rear entrance walkway.
 - Property will be investigating cooling options related to the worship space. They will explore A/C or Heat Pump.
 - The location of the TV in the basement is problematic as the support posts obstruct views. Relocation will be investigated.

Meeting closure: Meeting closed with prayer. Next regular meeting will be in September.



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 1-2pm Muslim Community Bob & Debbie Witt	5 Gwen Steinke Jessica Elliot
6 <u>15th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Social	7 Rhonda McTeer	8	9 Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion	10	11 1-2pm Muslim Community Cathy Frivalt	12 Rick & Cathy Frivalt
13 <u>16th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Sunday School Social	14	15	16 Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion	17	18 1-2pm Muslim Community Beryl Richarson	19 9 am Men's Breakfast at Jim's Restaurant
20 <u>17th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Ft. Rick Durrett	21	22	23 Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion	24	25 1-2pm Muslim Community	26
27 <u>18th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Social	28	29 Elmer & Marion Leeck Dave Burkett	30			

September Celebrations

Sept 5th – Gwen Steinke
Jessica Elliot

Sept 7th – Rhonda McTeer

Sept 11th – Cathy Frivalt

Sept 18th – Beryl Richardson

Sept 29th – Dave Burkett

Sept 4th

Bob & Debbie Witt

Sept 12th

Rick & Cathy Frivalt

Sept 29th

Elmer & Marion Leeck

Volunteer Schedule – September

Date	Ushers / Greeters	Altar Guild	Reader	Communion Assistant	Music	Counters	Social
6	Elmer & Marion Leeck	Pastor Norine	Jessica Z / Elliot Family	Pastor Norine	Lynne Z.		Yes - TBD
13	Elmer & Marion Leeck	Pastor Norine	Mellissa Watt / Family	Cory W	Lynne Z.		Yes - TBD
20	Elmer & Marion Leeck	Pastor Norine	Jeff / Debbie Kargus	Jeff Kargus	TBC		No
27	Elmer & Marion Leeck	Pastor Norine	Cheryl Supple	Pastor Norine	Craig B.		Yes - TBD

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

Readers – Bob Witt

Communion Assistants – Pastor Norine

Counters – Enid

Sunday School – Mellissa Watt

Social – Debbie Kargus

Ushers/Greeters – Maureen Rueckwald

Birthdays / Anniversaries – Debbie Witt

Altar Guild – Barb Formuziewich / Pastor Norine



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 out, please chat with Barb Formuziewicz.

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.

Community Events



Sundays in September

The Arnprior Market continues every Sunday from 9am-2pm on John Street

Sept 2

The Lunch Bunch
Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home Program
12 noon to 2 pm
Arnprior Legion
Cost is \$15
Entertainment by Pierre Desmarais

Sept 20

Tery Fox Run – 45th year
Contact: Denise Johnston 613-620-1333

Oct 3

United in Song Concert
Hosted by St. Andrews United Church
7 pm
Tickets – JEREMYFISHERMUSIC.COM or SEANMCCANNINGS.COM
Contact information – Donna at St. Andrews United Church



PRAYER LIST

Please include these people in your daily prayers.

Rory, Gerald, Stella, Jacqueline, Vicki, Joy, Tere, Briar, Oliva, Claude, Mary, Claudette, Debbie W.

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.

