

# The Mustard Seed



March 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 its 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

Andy Kalnins (Chairperson)	613-863-0202
Enid Blackwell (Vice Chairperson/Treasurer)	613-623-7017
Debbie Witt (Secretary)	613-622-1500
Karen Greening	416-540-5354
Mellissa Watt	613-858-9932

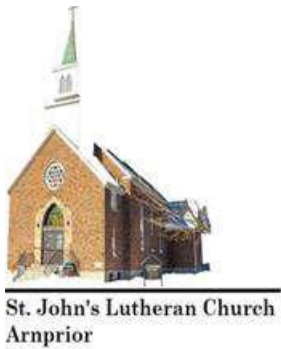
For emergency Pastoral care please contact Pastor Norine at 613-282-5032.

## 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!



## Draft Minutes of February 19, 2026 Council Meeting

### Attendance:

Pastor Norine Gullens

Andy Kalnins

Enid Blackwell

Debbie Witt

Karen Greening

Mellissa Watt

Meeting called to order 11:30 am. Pr. Norine opened with a prayer.

**SYNOD:** Christie Morrow-Wolfe, Assistant to the Bishop, had a Zoom meeting with Council before our meeting and discussed options for us for services and a possible search for Ministers who may be able to help as interim or as supply.

**Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the February 9, 2026 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded Mellissa. CARRIED

**Financial Secretary:** Adam Rueckwald was contacted and is willing to take over for the short term. Council thanks Cathy Zimmerling for her service in this critical role.

**Treasurer:** Enid has indicated that she is willing to be appointed from membership and stay on as Treasurer, if no one from the new council is able to step into this role.

**Worship:** March 1, Andy will do lay service. March 8 AGM. Norine will lead with communion service and a social follows. Possible youth can help with a service now and then, 2 person service teams may be identified, and a worship coordinator determined.

**Electronics:** A search is ongoing on who can take leadership in this role. Council is grateful to all that Dave Burkett has done in the prior years in this role.

**Newsletter:** Lynn Rosien has offered to do the newsletter. We are grateful for her support in this role.

**Church Council:** We need 6 – with recent resignation by Fred, currently we have 5 and Enid has completed three 2 year terms and is leaving. Two new council members will need to be added at the AGM (assuming all of the present council is willing to continue).

**Church Security:** Council is reviewing current systems and procedures.

### Meeting closure:

Next meeting: March 8, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. after the AGM to elect the new Council executive.

## Note From Chair of Council

As most are aware, Pastor Sylvia Poetscke has resigned her position as minister at our church. Church Council is saddened by this news. Pastor Sylvia was an incredible minister; award winner in her seminary class, holder of postgraduate degrees and certificates, winner of a Governor General's Medallion, someone who worked with the most vulnerable people in our society, and an End of Life Doula. Her sermons brimmed to overflow with wisdom, challenge, and compassion.

Administratively she did all the grunt work of bulletin preparation, music selections, maintaining our workers list and paperwork for vulnerable persons, as well as many other tasks. She will be sorely missed. The good news of course is that she will be serving with our siblings in faith at St. James in Renfrew. We should all offer our prayers for her continued grace, wisdom, and leadership, as well as the health and serenity of both Sylvia and Graham.

I wish I could say the waters ahead are going to be just choppy, but instead they are going to be turbulent. The typical first step in a church that has lost a pastor is to request the assistance of Synod to obtain someone to act as an interim pastor. Synod was quite clear: There are no candidates in the Ottawa Valley. There are pastors available in an emergency, but not for regular Sunday services. There may be one or two possible candidates in Ottawa but even there the prospects are dim

The second possibility is to have itinerant ministers attend on an occasional basis. This requires a lot of work and coordination, but is a possibility, but suffers from the same problem as above - a lack of candidates.

We are blessed to have Pastor Norine in our midst and we all would be delighted to have her lead and offer Holy Communion as often as she can. Furthermore she has stepped up to lead in pastoral care and support. *But we need to be clear*, Pastor Norine is retired and her time and ability to participate will be determined by her own discernment.

The final piece in this puzzle is to have laity lead services. We can have people from within the congregation step up to lead, and we can get sermons from Lutheran Pastors that can either be read or shown on the screen. In lieu of a prepared sermon we can get guest speakers to provide commentary on a particular social issue in our community

So let's not sugar coat or dance around this: A church trying to exist without a minister at the leadership is going to have a tough go of things. Synod reminds us that they understand our problem, that they sympathize with us, and they pray for us. Nothing against prayer, but a pastor would be better.

But our reality is no different than the reality of many other churches and congregations. We are a people united by belief and faith, and that is all we really need. We will trudge the road together one day, one week, one month at a time. The ultimate destination is not meant to be known to us.

Andy Kalnins  
Chairperson



# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 <u>Second Sunday in Lent</u></b> 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Noon – 1pm Music ‘n Motion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1-2pm Muslim Community	<b>7</b>
<b>8 <u>Third Sunday in Lent</u></b> 10:30 Holy Communion Annual General Meeting Potluck lunch Council Meeting  Daylight Savings Melissa Watt	<b>9</b> Maureen Rueckwald	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Noon – 1pm Music ‘n Motion  Randy Zimmerling	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1-2pm Muslim Community	<b>14</b> St. Patrick’s Day
<b>15 <u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u></b> 10:30 Service of the Word  Jacqueline Bertrand	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Noon – 1pm Music ‘n Motion	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 1-2pm Muslim Community  Elmer Leeck	<b>21</b> 9am Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s
<b>22 <u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u></b> 9:00 Pancake and Sausage Breakfast before service - CLWR 10:30 Service of the Word	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Noon – 1pm Music ‘n Motion  Pastor Stan	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1-2pm Muslim Community	<b>28</b>
<b>29 <u>Palm Sunday</u></b> 10:30 Holy Communion  Lorne Bretzlaff	<b>30</b> Blake Zimmerling	<b>31</b> JoAnne Bretzlaff				

## March Celebrations

March 8<sup>th</sup> – Melissa Watt  
 March 9<sup>th</sup> – Maureen Rueckwald  
 March 11<sup>th</sup> – Randy Zimmerling  
 March 15<sup>th</sup> – Jacqueline Bertrand  
 March 20<sup>th</sup> – Elmer Leek  
 March 25<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Stan  
 March 29<sup>th</sup> – Lorne Bretzlaff  
 March 30<sup>th</sup> – Blake Zimmerling  
 March 30<sup>th</sup> – Jo Anne Bretzlaff



## Volunteer Schedule – March

Date	Ushers / Greeters	Altar Guild	Reader	Communion Assistant	Music	Counters	Social
1	Debbie & Bob Witt	Cheryl Supple	Jessica Z. Family		Lynne Z	Debbie & Bob Witt	
8	Debbie & Bob Witt	Cheryl Supple	Seth Malina	Greg Steinke	Karen P	Debbie & Bob Witt	
15	Debbie & Bob Witt	Cheryl Supple	Ryan/Julie Z. family		Lynne Z	Debbie & Bob Witt	
22	Debbie & Bob Witt	Cheryl Supple	Cheryl			Debbie & Bob Witt	
29	Debbie & Bob Witt	Cheryl Supple	Melissa W. Family	Jeff Kargus	Lynne Z	Debbie & Bob Witt	

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

Readers – Bob Witt  
 Counters – Enid

Communion Assistants – Pastor Norine  
 Sunday School – Melissa Watt



## Sponsoring Social Coffee Hour

Are you interested in helping with a social after service, but are unable to host the social yourself? If you answered yes, 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.

## Time Change

Don't forget to change your clocks / watches before you go to bed on March 7<sup>th</sup> as March 8<sup>th</sup> is Daylight Saving.



## Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

As part of our ongoing Outreach efforts, come downstairs and enjoy delicious homemade pancakes with your church family!

Service of the Word and Prayers to follow at 10:30 a.m.

## Preparing for Easter

April 3 is Good Friday

April 5 is Easter Sunday



## Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.



Relax downstairs while enjoying coffee, tea and some treats!



Easter Sunday service to follow at 10:30 a.m.

## Two Thank You's

On behalf of Church Council, and indeed all of us at St. John's, I would like to thank Dave Burkett for the work and dedication he has put in over the years in the Mustard Seed. Dave was publisher, editor, writer, copywriter, typesetter, and delivery person. The information was timely and complete, the humor uplifting, and we all looked forward to the latest edition.

The torch has now been passed to Lynn Rosien and we are grateful that she has accepted the responsibility. Lynn is no rookie, she did the newsletter in the past. Lynn is very recently retired. We look forward to see the Rosien name on the masthead of the Mustard Seed.

Andy Kalnins

## Community Events

- March 4<sup>th</sup>** The Lunch Bunch – put on by the Arnprior-Braeside- McNab Seniors At Home Program  
Noon – 2 pm  
Arnprior Legion Hall  
Price is \$15.00 – to be purchased before Friday Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at the office – 613623-7981
- March 6<sup>th</sup>** World Day of Prayer  
1 pm  
St. Andrew's United Church – 269 John Street North  
Doors open at 12 noon  
Refreshments will be provided by the United Church women
- March 7<sup>th</sup>** A Concert of Musical styles for everyone  
3 pm at the Nick Smith Center hall  
Freewill cash donation at the door  
Presented by the Arnprior Community Choir and the Valley Concert Band
- March 14<sup>th</sup>** St. Paddy's Party  
1-8 pm at the Nick Smith Centre  
Tickets are \$20 + HST – for either the afternoon or evening shows  
1:00-2:15pm - Sherryl Fitzpatrick and Anna Ludlow  
2:30-4:00pm - The Kyle Felhaver Band  
or  
8:00-9:30pm - Riverside Revival  
9:30-11:00pm - The Kyle Felhaver Band  
For more information contact 613-623-7301



## PRAYER LIST

Please include these people in your daily prayers.

From St. John's: Jaqueline, Vicki, Pastor Norine, Karen, Melissa, Gerald,  
Rachel, Joy, Beryl, Stella and Eric

Friends of St. John's: Terry, Briar, Alivia, Lynne Z., Claude, John S and  
Mary

## Prayers for Others

If you wish to add / delete a person(s) to the prayer list, please speak to the Pastor or one of the Council members.

## Newsletter Submissions

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