



The Mustard Seed

July/Aug 2025

Newsletter

of

***St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church***

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

Church Council

Andy Kalnins (Chair) 863-0202
Enid Blackwell (V./Treas) 623-7017
Debbie Witt (Sec'y) 622-1500
Karen Greening (416) 540-5354
Fred Steinke 298-5017
Mellissa Watt 858-9932
Pr. Sylvia: Cell: (613) 331-1962
Home: (873) 527-0136

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

Dear friends in faith,

The weather is finally warming up, and for many it is a time to slow down, and spend some time sitting on the porch with a light-hearted book and lemonade. Some are travelling, gathering for sports or music events and so much more. It is a wonderful time of year.

Many of us keep a close watch on the weather throughout the summer. We may be planning get-togethers with loved ones that include outdoor meals and events, or we may be tending to our gardens or farms. Rain - too much or too little - is important for us.

Throughout the Easter season we started our time of worship with a "thanksgiving for baptism." It was a time set apart to pause and give thanks to God for all of the everyday, common ways that God has come close to us. Bread, grapes (wine or juice), and water.

It is impossible to live without water, - we drink it, bathe in it and cook with it and, if we are lucky, we swim and play in it. God is present in each action, filling us with love, washing us clean, surrounding us and holding us. And, each drop of rain, each shower we take, each glass we drink is an opportunity to experience God's love. We see the gift of joy as children (and some adults) splash through a puddle or run under a sprinkler. Water gives life and delight.

As summer begins I invite you to stick a copy of the Thanksgiving for Baptism to the fridge, and pause to give thanks for every cup of water, every shower and each drop of rain.

God is good, God is with us. Amen.

In service,

Pr Sylvia

July-August 2025 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Muslim Community	Weekly Prayers: 1:00-2:00 p.m.— each Friday in the Lounge.
Sunday July 6th	10:30 a.m.—Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday July 13th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday July 20th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday July 27th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday June 29th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday August 3rd	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday August 10th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday August 17th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday August 24th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service
Sunday August 31st	10:30a.m.— Worship Service

July-August 2025



July 2nd—Jeff & Debbie Kargus

**August 11th—Ryan and Julie
Zimmerling**

**August 29th—Mel & Marion
Bretzlaff**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 10th—Kalin Brohart

July 11th—Maxzene Zimmerling

July 17th—Barbara Formuziewich

July 20th—Alison Burkett

July 29th—Marion Leeck

August 4th—Zach Zimmerling

August 7th—Greg Steinke

August 18th—Judith Johnstone

August 15th—Mark Boese

August 31st—Marion Koops



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior

Draft Minutes of June 23rd, 2025 Council Meeting

Attendance:

Pr. Sylvia Poetschke
Andy Kalnins
Enid Blackwell

Debbie Witt
Karen Greening (regrets)

Melissa Watt (regrets)
Fred Steinke

Previous Minutes: Debbie moved that the May 19, 2025 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Enid. CARRIED.

Finances:

Net income surplus to the end of May \$3,884. Income \$3,000 below budget. Expenses almost \$4,000 below budget. Commitments to May 30: \$39,277, includes \$11,000 memoriams. Charitable return filed and acknowledged by CRA. 2024 HST recovery soon. To pay: local benevolence to Fountain of \$200 in July, and \$430 received for Food Bank. Financial reviewers Marilyn Kropp and Maureen Rueckwald plan 1/2 year review in July. Bank balance end of May \$23,114, Charitus Investment \$53,300, GIC \$31,051 (4.15%) Enid moved that the financial report be accepted as presented. Fred seconded. CARRIED

Property: Pews were put back and bolted. Front steps patched by Fred. Shrub planted and needs regular watering in the beginning.

Summer Worship (including Pr. vacation): Pr. Sylvia is away Aug.18 - Sept 1. She will lead in July and do the bulletins, including draft ones for her vacation time. Summer music largely videos, including liturgy; can also be done in the basement; already selected by Randy. We plan to have one live music Sunday in July and in August.

Confirmation Camp: July:7-11, Pastor attending. 2 youths for Confirmation Camp: One each from St John's, and St. James. St. James paying full amount of \$500 for Pr. Sylvia registration. Fred moved we reimburse 1/2 this amount (under Youth Ministry) to St. James since we have one youth attending. Enid Seconded. CARRIED

Council Leadership Process – July 2025-AGM February 2026:

Council worked on a 9 month Leadership Plan to be announced at service June 29, and followed up with published information and member involvement beginning in September.

Meeting closure: Meeting closed with a devotion offered by Pr. Sylvia.

Next regular meeting: September 22, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Summertime! and the Living is Easy . . .

Financial Update from Council: to End of May, 5/12 of 2025 Year

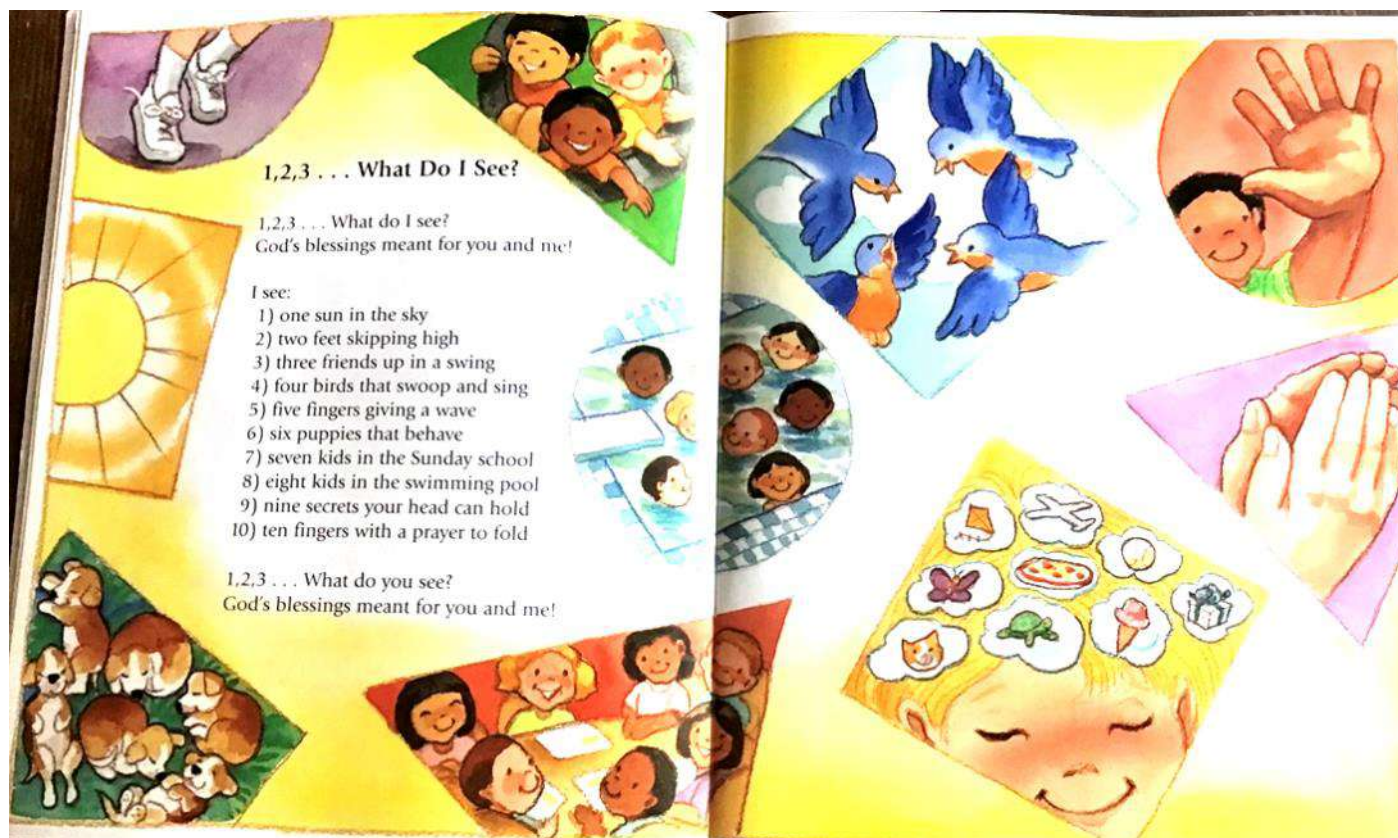
Long sunny days are with us. May we all have time to enjoy and relax in some of these warm days, and maybe do some travelling, cottaging and family visiting. Throughout July and August, St. John's worship and work may also slow somewhat, but we encourage you to continue to support our faith community in person and financially during summer.

We thank you for continuing to donate to St. John's varied ministries, through regular offerings for our operating budget, whether through envelopes, PAR, e-transfers, and/or Canada Helps. This support also extends to action for others. These include ongoing donations into the globe for Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and warm hospitality given to varied community friends at the Big Give BBQ in early June, along with two Muslim friends, who continue their weekly prayers in St. John's space with other Muslim neighbours. As well, union, choir members, and community dancers have met here, too, in recent months.

We are pleased to report that our financial details to the end of May show a surplus to our operating budget of \$3,885, slightly more than the \$2,071 surplus at this time last year. This is largely due to legacy/memorial amounts, as monthly commitments do not (yet!) meet our budget, with the commitment 'gap' to budget averaging some \$1,500/monthly. We are also happy to advise that our bank account balance and other savings are very solid.

Any questions, kindly contact Enid, 613 623-7017, eblackwell.ca@gmail.com.

	Income	Budget - 5/12	(below)/above budget	Comments
Commitments	\$39,228	\$40,979	(\$1,752)	The 4.2 % ask was not realized, but figure supported by \$11,000 legacy/ memorial
Fundraisers	\$342	\$167	\$175	All from SJL dance/yoga program with A. Villarreal - ended in May
Rental	\$1,534	\$1,313	\$222	May meet projected annual \$3,150
Total income	\$41,104	\$42,459*	(\$1,355)	*Excludes projected Youth, Outreach
Expenses	\$37,219	\$41,088	(\$3,869)	
Net Ordinary Income	\$3,885			
Total Other Income	\$4,747		No budget	CLWR, Food Bank, TAP, investment income, held youth/outreach/grant funds -projected for use in budget
Total Other Expense	\$0			Some 'other' income to go out in July



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“The Summer Day”

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean —
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down —
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

+ Mary Oliver



The most famous lines of this poem are the last two: they're taped to mirrors and pinned to cork boards and framed in embroidery and on and on — and sure enough, they're lines worth remembering. But the heart of the poem is a couple of lines earlier: “Tell me, what else should I have done?” What else, that is, besides “falling down in the grass, being idle and blessed, strolling through the fields all day.” At its heart, this poem is a little revolution, a provocative question mark beside the conventional answers to the query, *What makes for a day well lived? How should I spend this “summer day”? This summer day, I mean — the one we're in right now. The one we'll live in tomorrow.*

THANK YOU!



It is with my deepest appreciation to all my fellow parishioners for their love, prayers and concern for me, and for those who visited me in hospital and at home.

Thank You, Thank You.

After 4 months in hospital, it is wonderful to be back home and back to church again. Sincerely, Beryl Richardson

June Peonies - given and arranged by Cheryl Supple, remembering and sharing the heritage of her mother, Gladys Buder. Gladys loved colour and nurturing Creator's gift of flowers!



THE BIG GIVE

The burgers, hotdogs and drinks were just the extras nobody will really remember. Although, our *"hamdog"* was a pretty special invention only St. John's will be known for!

Getting setup — seems like there is only one person working here.?



The **BIG GIVE** provided a relaxing environment where people could enjoy conversation. I observed a lot of "catching up" and laughter. People went home with good memories of this. — Jeff

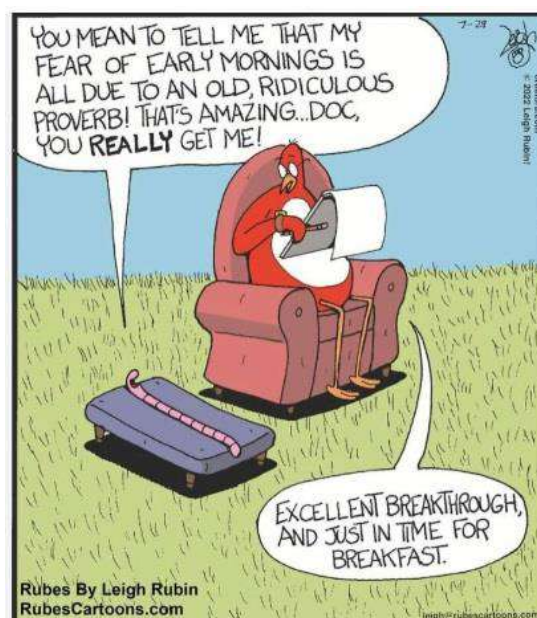
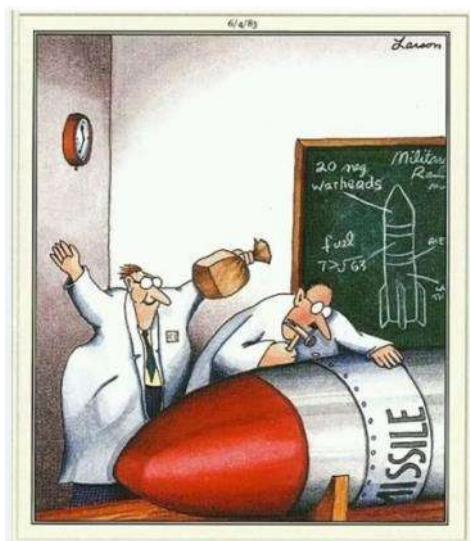
To register children, grandchildren, friends, neighbours... call Alison at 613-618-5716



Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our Congregation: Stella, Jaqueline, Vicki, Pr. Norine, Karen, Mellissa, Gerald, Rachel, Beryl, Joy, Joyce, Lorne B, and friends: Terry, Briar and Alivia, Lynne Z. Claude and Mary.

Humour



Did you hear about the
actor falling through
the floorboards?

He was just going
through a stage



I don't want to brag, I
finished the puzzle in
under a week and it said
2-4 years on the box.

FUNNY JOKES - WWW.PUN.ME

I was told I needed to
stop acting like a
flamingo...

So I put my foot down



A man walks into an
enchanted forest and
tries to cut down a
talking tree.



"You can't cut me down,"
the tree exclaims.

"I'm a talking tree!"

The man responds,
"You may be a talking
tree, but you
will dialogue."



RD



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

July - August 2025

DATE	READER	ALTAR	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	MUSIC	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL
July 6th	Cheryl Supple	P+ Norine	Greg		G,F,K Steinke	Debbie & Bob	
July 13th	Ryan Z. & family	P+ Norine	P+ Norine	.	G,F,K Steinke	Debbie & Bob	TBC
July 20th	Karen G.	P+ Norine	Andy		G,F,K Steinke	Debbie & Bob	
July 27th	Bob Witt	P+ Norine	Bob W.		G,F,K Steinke	Debbie & Bob	TBC
August 3rd	Enid	Jo Anne	Jeff		Marion & Elmer	TBC	
August 10th	Maureen R.	Jo Anne	P+ Norine		Marion & Elmer	Maureen & Lorne	TBC
August 17th	Mellissa W. & family	Jo Anne	Greg		Marion & Elmer	TBC	
August 24th	Debbie / Jeff	Jo Anne	Bob		Marion & Elmer	TBC	TBC
August 31st	TBC	Jo Anne	Enid		Marion & Elmer	TBC	