



The Mustard Seed

October 2025

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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

Church Council

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Enid Blackwell (V./Treas) 623-7017
Debbie Witt (Sec'y) 622-1500
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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

**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Ps. 118:24

Dear siblings in faith:

When I was a student I had the privilege of having several parish placements to learn how to serve. In one congregation, the pastor would start every service with the words of the psalm above, and since that time I usually start my day with it as a tender approach to the day. Just think about it... this is the day that the Lord has made. Today.

A single verse of scripture offers so much. A moment to acknowledge that our God, our Creator, has made the day. For us, but for all of creation - we are interconnected and mutually dependent. So what are we to do? "Rejoice and be glad." What a fantastic way to start each day!

We are not oblivious to the suffering in the world, in our neighbourhoods and even in our homes as we face daily life. As we move into the fall season we set aside time to be grateful for the harvest in the midst of a devastatingly hot and dry summer. We begin to think of the holiday seasons ahead, and hope for meaningful, loving connections without too much expense.

As a church, we too give thanks - for the volunteers in Sunday School, the Altar Guild, Social Committee, Worship planners, Readers, Randy for his music coordination, outreach ministry and so many more. We give thanks for the invisible service of our cleaner and everyone serving behind the scenes, those who water the gardens and tend to the property, council members and the list goes on. A time of thanksgiving as we offer our time, our talent and our treasure. We begin to think of what we can offer in the year ahead as we consider, as a congregation where Jesus is leading. St. John's is a vibrant and faithful community and new ideas are percolating!

Continued —>

Pastor's message continued.

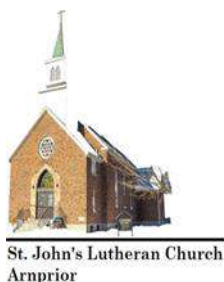
In October, I will be offering Adult Education on Wednesdays at 2:00 with a focus on prayer. We meet on Oct 7, 21 and 28. You are welcome to gather in the sanctuary at 1:45 for 15 minutes of silent prayer and reflection before we meet.

The fall season is busy, and feels like it is getting too busy - we pause, we breath and we remember "this is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Amen

In service, Pr Sylvia

October 2025 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Muslim Community	Weekly Prayers: 1:00-2:00 p.m.— each Friday in the Lounge.
Music 'N Motion	Wednesday 6:00-7:00pm All are welcome
Sunday Oct 5th	10:30 a.m.—Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Lynne Z.
Sunday Oct 12th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Lynne Z.
Saturday Oct 18th	9:00—Men's Breakfast at Jim's
Sunday Oct 19th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service—Lay led Music: Videos Sunday School
Sunday Oct 26th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Karen P. (TBC)
Monday Oct 27nd	1:00—Council Meets
Sunday Oct 26th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Karen P.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior

Draft Minutes of Sept 22nd, 2025 Council Meeting

Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order 1:00 pm. Pr. Sylvia opened with a prayer from Liturgies from Below.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Fred moved the June 23, 2025 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded, Karen. CARRIED.
2. **Pastor Norine and position of Honorary Assistant:** Pastor Sylvia explained that it is a common practice within the Eastern Synod for a congregation to recognize and respect the value of retired clergy. Pastor Sylvia will proceed with the process for P+ Norine. Council very supportive.
3. **Confirmation:** Jacob Elliot will be confirmed at a time to be determined. Pastor will be working with Jacob on further understanding of the Bible, of Lutheran Doctrine, and of Participation in the Church.
4. **Longer Table:** The Longer Table, a group in Arnprior formed to fight food insecurity, has approached our church to see if our space could possibly be used for things like food preparation, food storage, and training. Council absolutely supports the goal of this organization but will not move forward in any substantive way without the approval of the congregation. A representative of the Renfrew County Health Unit will be doing a preliminary review of our facilities.
5. **Building Use Inquiry:** The church received an inquiry from a representative of an entertainer from Atlantic Canada who will be on tour in Eastern Ontario in the autumn of 2026. While this act will primarily focus on large venues, there is an interest in doing some concerts in small intimate sacred spaces. Council agreed to be open to considering this as it develops.
6. **TAP Donations:** A parishioner has reminded council to be cautious as a church in passing through donations to charities not registered with the CRA. This could have consequences with CRA, including loss of our charitable status. The treasurer will seek clarity with the CRA and Synod to ensure compliance. Importantly, we are not abandoning TAP, we are just reviewing the technical aspects. The treasurer advised that CRA allows total funds of up to \$5000 a year to go to any one 'non-qualified donee' (organizations that do not have registered charity status), that funds forwarded to TAP were below \$1000, were reported on our 2024 CRA return, acknowledged as received by CRA, and no tax receipts were issued for these funds.
7. **Financial AGM:** Council proposes that the 2026 budget be presented for approval in a special congregational meeting in November. The reasoning is as follows a) by that time we will have a pretty good idea of how 2025 year end will look b) by approving the budget prior to the year's start, it is actually in place for the start of the year, which is good practice c) this allows the AGM to concentrate on moving forward as a church with respect to things as ministry, hospitality, outreach, and other issues. Moved that St. John's Lutheran Church hold a congregational meeting to approve the 2026 Budget on Sunday, November 23rd, 2025. Moved by Karen Greening, Seconded by Enid Blackwell CARRIED
8. **Shared Ministry:** The Shared Ministry Committee has lapsed and council feels it needs to be revived as soon as reasonably possible. Council will be seeking those interested to come forward; Pastor Sylvia and Andy Kalnins will be speaking to this.

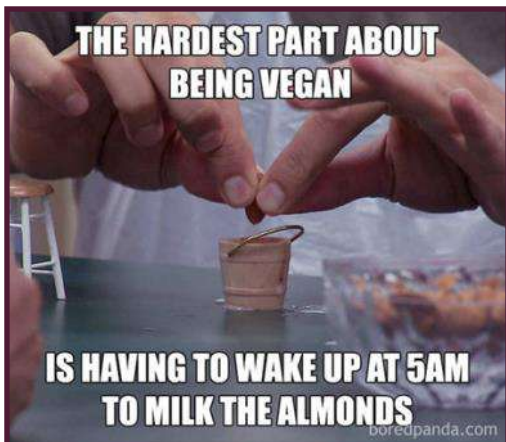
1. **Baptism:** A baptism of Jude Kargus is planned for October 5. Pastor Sylvia is rearranging vacation days to be with baby, family and members for this happy occasion. October 18 and 19 are new vacation days; lay service, October 19.
2. **Pastoral Ministry Report:** In June, July and August, 11 services were offered, 13 visits made, council and outreach meetings, newsletter messages. Confirmation camp planning and involvement, safer churches policy administration ongoing. Gathering with Bishop Carla in Pembroke, and community connections through Big Give, colleague gathering, and Longer Table meeting. August 18-Sept 1 vacation time. Upcoming pastoral commitments noted.
3. **Finance Report:** At end of August, our expenses exceed income by some \$4,000, but with a delayed August payment coming in, will be about \$1,600 current deficit. (This compares to end of Aug. 2023, last year with normal pastoral ministry, where \$4,000 was deficit at this time; yet, at 2023 year's end, surplus was some \$6,000.) Our budget is 'aspirational'; we may be in a deficit to budget position at end of year, but it is worth noting our savings are sound: close to \$84,000 in Charitus investment accounts and Scotiabank GIC; chequing account over \$16,000 at end of August. Expenses of note: roof repair work and front steps maintenance. Appreciation for financial reviewers January to June review in July. (see note elsewhere in newsletter.)

There was a motion for \$1200 be added to the Music Ministry Budget for 2025 for the purposes of maintaining this ministry to December 31st, 2025. Moved by: Enid Blackwell. Seconded by: Fred Stenkie

Meeting closed with a devotion offered by Pr. Sylvia.

Next regular meeting: October 27, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Humour



Scientists have discovered that keeping tropical fish at home can have a calming effect on the brain. They say it's due to all the 'indoor fins'.

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Police are looking for a man who stabbed six people with knitting needles. He seems to be following some sort of pattern.

Q: What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

**A: Pumpkin π
Sorry. I'll see myself out.**

Important Facts: 1) Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day — Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years. 2) Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die. 3) Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing. 4) Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers: what you do today might burn your ass tomorrow.

6-Month Financial Review

Council thanks our appointed 2025 financial reviewers, Maureen Rueckwald and Marilyn Kropp, for proposing and conducting a review of

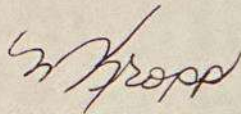
St. John's financial records and systems, January through June, in late July, 2025. The treasurer apologizes for missing the opportunity to provide their review letter to members in the September Mustard

Report of the Financial Review Committee (6 month review Jan-June 2025)

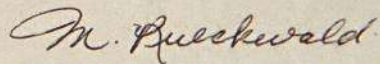
TO: The Council and Membership

Date: July 22, 2025

We have conducted a financial review of the records and the financial reports of the St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church of Arnprior. While our review was limited to testing the transactions and balances and would not necessarily disclose all errors, we found no evidence of significant errors or omissions. In our opinion, the church's financial reports are fairly stated. We wish to commend the treasurer and the financial secretary for their fine work. On behalf of the congregation, we thank them for the gift of their time and talent.



Marilyn Kropp, Financial Review Committee



Maureen Rueckwald, Financial Review Committee

Hold This Date

Saturday December 13th! Not quite ready to go public yet but all of St. John's family should know. The time likely will be 7:00 pm that is not yet quite etched in stone yet. Please stay tuned for more details after Thanksgiving.



Sunday, September 28: We marked the

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

with land acknowledgment and in word, prayer, remembrance table, and with the dedication of a print, *The Feast*, (Leland Bell) gifted to us by Eric Obst.





CAMP LUTHERLYN



60th Anniversary
**ROAST BEEF
DINNER**

OCTOBER
25
2025

SATURDAY

2:00 - 4:00: OPEN HOUSE & CRAFTS (bring an item to tie dye or make a card or gift tag)
4:00 - 5:00: LIVE MUSIC by GATE 47
4:00 - 7:00: SILENT AUCTION and 50/50 DRAW
5:30 - 7:30: DINNER

TICKETS \$40

To Register: e-transfer to:
Lutherlyn.fin@gmail.com or
call 613 625-2994

Includes \$20 donation receipt upon request.

909 Zadow Road Golden Lake ON
www.lutherlyncamp.ca



MUSIC 'N MOTION

**Starting Wednesday, September 24th
at 6 to 7 PM**


**St. John's Lutheran Church, 47 McLachlin St. S.
Please use back door on Alicia St.**

Come dressed comfortably, with water and a yoga mat, to participate in a surprise mix each week

Exercise



Dance



Yoga



Jump Rope



Acro

Drop in. By donations.

All welcome!

Come join in when
you can,
**6 p.m. on
Wednesdays.**

All welcome!



Two of the leaders in Music 'N Motion on Wednesday evening, October 1:

Veronic, who taught us and led us in Indigenous shawl dance.

Gusnara, who then eased us on to our mats for a good yoga session.



♦ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ♦

We celebrated Beryl's 85th birthday at the Service on the 21st with the presentation of a certificate from Bishop Carla.



October 2025



Oct 10th—Bartley & Linda Roberts
Oct 11th—Greg & Debbie Steinke
Oct 23rd—Bob & Enid Blackwell

♦ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ♦

Oct 10th—Cathy Zimmerling
Oct 12th—Nate Zimmerling
Oct 21st—Jeff Kargus
Oct 25th—Rosemary Drziak
Oct 27th—Fred Steinke
Oct 30th—Stella Boese



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

October 2025

DATE	READER	ALTAR	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	MUSIC	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL
Oct 5th	Jessica Z. & Family	P+Norine	Bob W.	Lynne Z.	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	TBC
Oct 12th	Joy Statham	P+Norine	Greg Steinke	Lynne Z.	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	
Oct 19th	Jeff / Debbie	P+Norine	Jeff Kargus	Videos	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	TBC
Oct 26th	Maureen	P+Norine	Cory Weckwerth	Karen P. TBC	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	
Nov 2nd	Andy	Jo-Anne		Karen P.	Maureen & Lorne	Debbie & Bob	

