



The Mustard Seed

September 2025

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior
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"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,

Here we are, Labour Day weekend. An extra day to give thanks and celebrate the work of unions who help set the bar for fair wages and safe working conditions. A day to be aware that many are working several jobs and still unable to meet basic needs. A day to remember workplace injuries and death. A day to thank God for the persistent call to care for one another and call for justice and equity.

These last days (mid-August) have been hot, dry, with lingering smoke from forest fires. Despite the privilege of having a heat pump and a cool home, I am feeling sluggish and lazy but my mind and spirit are planning!

Labour Day always brings out the desire to sharpen old pencil crayons, buy new pens and commit to this fall being the one where I am totally organized and do everything I planned to do last September...and the September before that. I peruse courses that I could take, and consider what kind of formal learning I can add to my week. I am grateful to the possibilities that on-line learning offers, but have not yet decided which workshops and seminars I will take in. Everything seems possible and interesting in September!

In our church life, I am looking forward to starting conversations asking each of you "where is Jesus leading us as a congregation?" and "what are you ready to do to be a part of it?" Two questions that you can answer as individuals, couples or families. Please give it some thought, as I will be calling you! From there, I'll put together a summary of responses and share them with the council to help guide us into the future.

At the same time, I will be offering a time of learning from one another using Canadian poetry. No purchase is necessary, we will experience his poetry together by listening to it, and engaging with it through the lens of faith. Even if you hated poetry in school we might just find a new way that words communicate faith and hope.

Fall promises to be a busy time in our congregational life together. In the midst of the busy-ness and activities that are starting up once again, I am gently resolved to keeping God first in all that I do. It is so easy to get distracted with so many things going on. God first. Always.

So much to be grateful for, in the midst of much to be done. Thanks be to God!

In service, rev Sylvia

September 2025 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Muslim Community	Weekly Prayers: 1:00-2:00 p.m.— each Friday in the Lounge.
Sunday Sept 7th	10:30 a.m.—Worship Service with Holy Communion Video Music Sunday School (TBC)
Saturday Sept 13th	9:00—Men's Breakfast at Jim's
Sunday Sept 14th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Lynne Z.
Sunday Sept 21th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Sylvia E.
Monday Sept 22nd	1:00—Council Meets
Sunday Sept 28th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Lynne Z.

September 2025



Sept 4th—Bob & Debbie Witt
Sept 12th—Rick & Cathy Frivalt
Sept 29th—Elmer & Marion Leeck

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sept 5th—Gwen Steinke
Sept 5th—Jessica Zimmerling
Sept 7th—Rhonda McTeer
Sept 11th—Cathy Frivalt
Sept 18th—Beryl Richardson
Sept 29th—Dave Burkett



Thanks to Jeff for the Community Garden, and thanks to all the volunteers who weeded and watered.

Jeff has started to harvest a small amount of beets and carrots for the food bank each week until the gardens are empty.



Karen Greening
leading service in
the basement

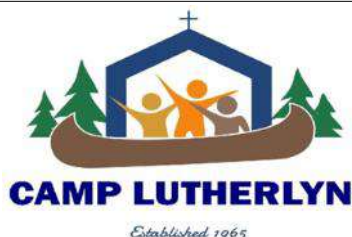


Gwen's gorgeous flowers!



More Summer flower Gifts.





Hold the Date!

Saturday, October 25

Camp Lutherlyn 60th Anniversary Celebration

Details are being finalized but they include dinner and a band.

And if you're not aware, a reminder that the **Four Seasons Lodge** is open all year long – a perfect place for an extended family or friends get-away! It has 8 bedrooms, all around a lovely central area with a cozy wood stove (we provide the wood). It's perfect for putting kids to bed and having some great adult time. There is a full kitchen and BBQ plus Men's and Women's washrooms.



Camp in the fall is lovely. Camp in winter is spectacular. Hike or snowshoe on our extensive property. Cross-country ski or snowmobile on the Ottawa Valley snowmobile trail that borders Camp property.

A weekend in low season is just **\$1,170** – that's just \$73 a night per room. If interested, talk to Alison (613-625-2994) or check out our website for pictures, availability and booking at <https://www.lutherlyncamp.ca/rentals/four-seasons-lodge/>



Wisdom From Many Sources

"Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: It must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all."

~ **William Faulkner**

"Too many people spend money they earned to buy things they don't want to impress people that they don't like."

~ **Will Rogers**

"You really have to love yourself first to get anything done in this world."

~ **Lucille Ball**

"The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries."

~ **Rene Descartes**

"You don't have to become something you're not to be better than you were."

~ **Sidney Poitier**

"Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results."

~ **Willie Nelson**

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born... and the day you find out why."

~ **Mark Twain**

"Always be a first version of yourself and not a second rate version of someone else."

~ **Judy Garland**

"Chains of habit are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken."

~ **Warren Buffett**

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

~ **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

~ **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"The brain is like a muscle. When it is in use we feel very good. Understanding is joyous."

~ **Carl Sagan**

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."

~ **Muhammad Ali**

"I pray to be like the ocean, with soft currents, maybe waves at times. More and more, I want the consistency rather than the highs and the lows."

~ **Drew Barrymore**



Redneck Church

You Know You're in a Redneck Church if ...

- the finance committee refuses to provide funds for the purchase of a chandelier because none of the members knows how to play one.
- people ask, when they learn that Jesus fed the 5000, whether the two fish were bass or catfish, and what bait was used to catch 'em.
- when the pastor says, "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering," four guys stand up.
- on the opening day of deer season the church is closed.
- a member of the church requests to be buried in his 4-wheel-drive truck because "It ain't never been in a hole it couldn't get out of"
- the choir is known as the "OK Chorale".
- in a congregation of 500 members, there are only seven last names in the church directory.
- people think "rapture" is what you get when you lift something too heavy.
- the baptismal pool is a #2 galvanized "Wheeling" washtub.
- the choir robes were donated by (and embroidered with the logo from) Billy Bob's Barbecue.
- the collection plates are really hubcaps from a 1956 Chevy pick up truck.
- instead of a bell you are called to service by a duck call.
- the minister and his wife drive matching pickup trucks.
- "Thou shall not covet" applies to huntin' dogs, too.
- the final words of the benediction are, "Y'all come back now, Ya hear."

Make It Clear Ministries





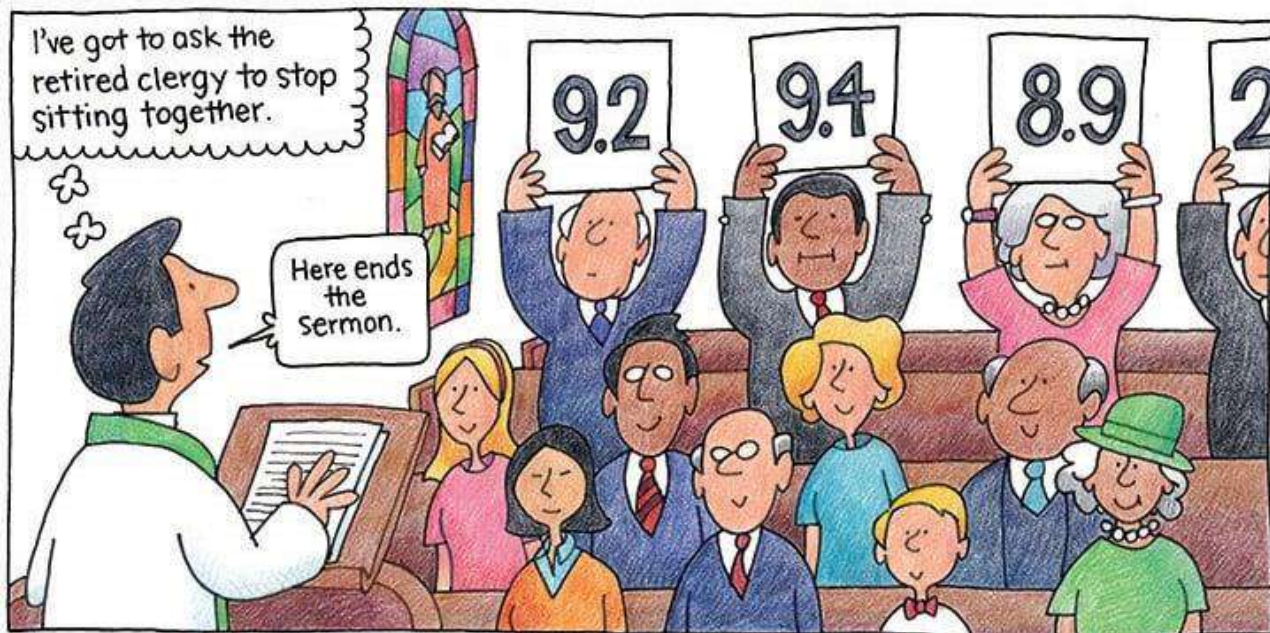
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

September 2025

DATE	READER	ALTAR	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	MUSIC	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL
Sept 7th	Andy Kalnins	Cathy Z.	Andy	Dave	Andy & Cory	Elmer & Marion	TBC
Sept 14th	Cathy Z.	Cathy Z.	Enid	Lynne Z.	Andy & Cory	Elmer & Marion	Pr. Norine & Karen
Sept 21th	Karen G.	Cathy Z.	Karen G.	Sylvia E.	Andy & Cory	Elmer & Marion	Beryl's B'day
Sept 28th	Cheryl S.	Cathy Z.	Pr. Norine	Lynne Z.	Andy & Cory	Elmer & Marion	

I've started investing in stocks: beef, vegetable, chicken. One day I hope to be a Bouillionaire.

SERMON REVIEWS



The Rogues Gallery at Christ Waterloo