



# The Mustard Seed

October 2024

*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

See us on facebook:

*St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior*  
On the web: [stjohnsarnprior.com](http://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 Council Chair*

In 2011, I visited the National Gallery of Canada to see the "Caravaggio and Friends" exhibit. One of the friends was the artist Luca Giordano. And one of his paintings was "The Conversation of St. Paul". I was mesmerized. It was pure madness and chaos. Saul is falling off his horse, and the horse is looking at the sky in terror. Something has happened, but no one is sure what. The painting by Giordano was of course not a Caravaggio, and there was no crowd milling around, so I sat in the bench in front of it and stared and gawked at the canvas and was enthralled. The gates of heaven had opened, and yet there appeared to be nothing but confusion, panic, uncertainty, and shock. Neither man nor beast appeared to have the slightest understanding of what was happening. I sat there for a good ten minutes, as my brain and heart tried to process what I was seeing.

But out of that turmoil, Saul became Paul, and Paul started writing letters to the early churches. I am not sure how the people of the Roman Church, or the Corinthian Church, or the Galatian Church, would have reacted when they received their letters. Would they be honored? Would they be happy? Perhaps a little insulted? And what would Paul write to us at SJL?

I like to think that Paul would be happy that we acknowledge the beauty of nature. He speaks of this early in his letter to the Romans when he states "*By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see*" The altar has been resplendent with flowers from so many this summer. Gwen Steinke's wonderful gladiolas, Beryl Richardson's peonies, and Enid Blackwell's mix of wild flowers and garden flowers not only beautify the church, but remind us of the power of nature's wonders. (and I apologize for missing a flower arranger as I was floating on a river for much of August)

In October, the Outreach folks are putting on a spaghetti dinner. The food and labour are being donated, and all that is asked of the guests is that they pay what they can, with 100% of the proceeds going to NeighbourLink Fountain. If someone can only afford a Loonie, they still get a meal, and the Fountain gets something. If someone can pay more, the Fountain will get more. Paul in his little note to the Corinthians (actually his second note to them) talks of the church in Macedonia: "*I watched as they willingly gave what they could afford and then went beyond to give even more.*" Perhaps we will never show the generosity of the Macedonians, but I like to think that St. Paul would think that our hearts and purses are in the right place.

*Continued—>*

## *Message from the Chair of Council, Continued*

Churches always needed leadership, and here is what Paul wrote to his young colleague Timothy: *“If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good! But there are preconditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to their spouse, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. They must know what they are talking about, not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry.”* A pretty tall order for sure, but under the leadership of Lorne Rueckwald and Marilyn Kropp (from St. James) there is a very active search for a pastor going on even as this newsletter is being prepared. Lorne has vetoed the idea of the white smoke, but he will be keeping us informed of updates as he is able.

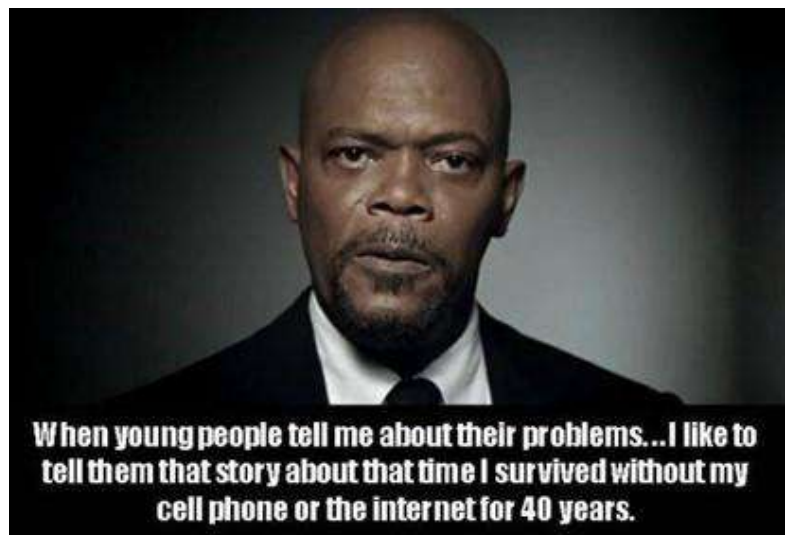
It has been a long slog waiting for a pastor attached to this church and it is easy to get despondent. But the words that Paul wrote to the Romans, he could have written to us:

*“Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God’s Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don’t know how or what to pray, it doesn’t matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That’s why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.”*

I often reflect on that painting by Giordano. There is fear and darkness and confusion and doubt and uncertainty. But out of that, Saul did become Paul, and Paul guided and nurtured the nascent church. His thoughts and words apply to us today, and I like to think that he would be happy with St. John’s. It is after all not in the name, not in the building, not the in organ, not the in electronics. It is the people. Be they the altar decorators, the gardeners, the Synod Assembly attendees, the building maintainers, the computer whizzes, the guest musicians, the lay leaders, or the people who come every week, we do have a church. And I like to think that Paul would be content that we have at least listened to him.

Andy

*PS – The readings are from “The Message” The Bible in Contemporary Language  
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# October 2024 Calendar

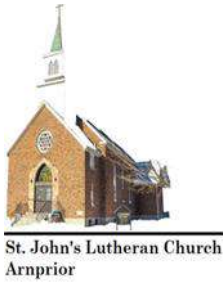
DATE	EVENT
Fridays	1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge
Sunday Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30 a.m. — <b>Worship Service of the Word (Enid leading)</b></li> <li>• 4:00 p.m. — Celebrating Pr. Norine—Galilee Centre (5:30 p.m. — Drop in for Ice Cream &amp; Cake)</li> </ul>
Sunday Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. — <b>Worship Service — (Lay led)</b>
Sunday Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. — <b>Worship Service with Holy Communion— Pr. Hackbusch</b>
Sunday Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30 a.m. — <b>Worship Service of the Word (Lay service with guest Barb Cowal from NeighbourLink Fountain)</b></li> <li>• <b>UNPLUG: Wilderness Survival—1:00-3:30 at Zimmerling Farm</b></li> </ul>
Monday Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:00p.m. — Church Council Meets</li> <li>• 9:00a.m.—Pastoral Care with Pastor Leena (Boardroom/Homes)</li> </ul>
Friday Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 p.m.—7:00p.m. — Spaghetti Supper
Saturday Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast at PJ's</li> </ul>
Sunday Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30 a.m. — <b>Worship Service of Holy Communion— Pr. Hackbusch. Social follows</b></li> <li>• <b>Sunday School</b></li> </ul>

## PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

**From our Congregation:** Jaqueline, June, Vicki, Samantha, P+ Norine, Karen, and Mel

**Friends:** Terry, children Briar and Alivia, George W., Lynne Z., Charlotte, Claude, Roy and John S.



## *Minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Council Meeting*

### **Attendance:**

Andy Kalnins	Debbie Witt	Fred Steinke
Enid Blackwell	Karen Greening	Mellissa Watt (regrets)
<b>GUESTS</b>	Pr. Leena Jensen	Beryl Richardson

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. Andy welcomed everyone. Pr. Leena read a devotion. Guests Pr. Leena and Beryl departed.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the August 26, 2024 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Karen, CARRIED.
2. **Ministry Plans for September/October:** Andy reported ongoing service schedules be proposed for September & October. Sept. 22 we have Pr. Michael Hackbusch; Enid to lead Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. October 6 may be Pr. Hackbusch (TBD). Oct. 13 is likely a lay service; Karen Greening to lead, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> - Pr. Hackbusch (TBD). October 27 TBD.
3. **Property:** We received a recommendation to proceed with the updates to the pastor's office for walls & floor. Fred motioned that the recommended work go ahead, Karen seconded. CARRIED. Council also approved the purchase of darkening curtains for the lounge, following confirmation of curtain pattern with Muslim community. Fred showed 2 security cameras that Randy is donating to the church, 1 for back door, 1 for side door. We thank Randy for this donation. Fred reported that an engineer, John McIntyre, came in and he doesn't see a problem with the lift project but has to see the plans Dave designed. Remind-er to all members that if you are last out after service to ensure that all lights are out.
4. **Pastor Norine Reception:** As of today we have 34 people coming for the celebration for Pastor Norine. More seats available and an eblast has gone out. Plans are still being finalized for this event.
5. **Pastoral Care:** Visits, home communion, and any other contact continues one day a month with Pastor Leena Jensen, accompanied by Beryl Richardson.
6. **Finances:** Ordinary budget: End of August surplus to expenses over \$16,000, largely due to pastoral vacan-cy. Commitments \$7,612 in August; significant donations thankfully received. We are within some \$2,200 of our commitment budget for 8 mo. into the year. This level of monthly commitment income may not continue, but is encouraging. Expenses are as anticipated; include window repair/paint and some assem-bly delegate costs. Other income: includes a donation for Food Bank donation. Notice received of approval for a Charitus Partnership grant of \$3000 for accessible washroom. Enid moved, Fred seconded, that finan-cial report be accepted. CARRIED
7. **Call Process and Church Profile Update:** Andy reported that Doug Reble met on September 7 to go over our Profile form and next steps with Lorne Rueckwald, Andy Kalnins, Enid Blackwell and from St. James Renfrew, Ulla Schilling, John Stiefelmeyer & Marilyn Kropp. A short list of candidates has been identified and progress has been made.
8. **Outreach:** Andy showed a printed poster, he is funding, advertising the October 25 Spaghetti Dinner, with all proceeds to the Fountain.
9. **Youth:** No Report

**Close of Meeting:** Next meeting: Monday, October 21, 2024, 1:00 p.m.



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

47 McLachlin Street South, Arnprior ON K7S 2Z1

613 623-4562 [www.stjohnsarnprior.com](http://www.stjohnsarnprior.com)

Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior

Member of ELCIC [www.elcic.ca](http://www.elcic.ca)

September 22, 2024

The members of the Pastor "Call Committee" for St. John's are Enid, Andy and myself.

We're working in partnership with the Call Committee of Renfrew.

Your Joint Call Committee has been working closely with the Assistant to the Bishop and now has a short list of prospective candidates.

Having a list of active candidates is of course good news.

Out of respect for the process, Synod rules, and the candidates themselves, no further information can be shared at this time.

We will keep you updated throughout the process.

Yours in Christ,

Lorne Rueckwald  
Co-chair, Call Committee  
St John's Lutheran Church

Cc: The Rev. Christie Morrow-Wolfe, Assistant to the Bishop  
The Rev. Doug Reble, Assistant to the Bishop

***Welcoming, Supporting and Serving***

**God is not what you think**

or even what you believe

because God is

a word unspoken,

a thought unthought,

a belief unbelieved.

So if you wish to know

this God, practice wonder,

do what is good, and

cultivate silence.

The rest will follow.

## Blessing of the Animals



October 4 is marked as St. Francis of Assisi Day and the closing of Season of Creation in the church. Around that time, you may wish to bless your quadrupeds, fur babies, feathered pets. Here is a prayer you can use for this, which P+ Norine shared with us several years ago when we marked this day at a Sunday gathering. Who knows, perhaps animals will figure in the service here on October 6!

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of animal's name in the life of person's name. Through this animal you have brought many blessings. Today we pause to name our gratitude, and to pray a blessing on animal's name. For the companionship of our pets we say thanks. Bless this animal's life in our care; may they know love through all their days. **Amen.**

the correct place for the phone is below and slightly to the left of the bread plate



The father of this little girl says he brought her a cat to forget about the phone, but this is what happened.



September 1 to October 4 is the **Season of Creation** in many church communities. The Climate Justice Task Force of the Eastern Synod provides a guide for action which is available on the Synod website (easternsynod.org – climate advocacy resources.) Below are some opening words from the guide, and a prayer incorporated into times of study at this time, when support for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is encouraged.

## Pews & Protest: The Case for Faith-Based Climate Action

### *A guide*

**BACKGROUND:** *“We are on a highway to climate hell.”* Those were the words of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, echoed this summer in Bishop Pryse’s opening words to the Eastern Synod Assembly, and implicit in every image of ashen streetscapes, homes, and churches that came out of Jasper, AB, this summer. As the Climate Justice Task Force of the Eastern Synod, our aim is not only to raise awareness on the dangers of our planet’s current trajectory—we also strive to provide hope in our Synod as we reckon with this crisis. This guide is intended to help ordinary people in our Synod—people who may not be very well-versed in climate science, ecotheology, or advocacy—to give a talk in their congregation that educates on the urgency of humanity’s current predicament as well as the spiritual dimension of earthly decay. But we will not settle for numb despair. In giving such talks, we must also explore how we can channel the hope of the Gospel into action that is both faithful to our values of Creation care and social justice, as well as strategic in having maximum impact in compelling our democratic institutions to act with integrity and humility in the face of imminent environmental collapse.

As the Climate Justice Task Force launches its campaign in support of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty for the Season of Creation, we are hoping that Lutherans across the Synod will join us—whether that be in the streets, writing letters, making art, saying a prayer, or just having a conversation. However, many Lutherans may feel little connection to this issue and will therefore have little reason or motivation to participate. Given the gloom and despair often associated with the topic, one cannot expect that everyone will be as enthusiastic as the members of this Task Force to jump into action. Therefore, this talk is intended to provide a space where people less engaged with this issue can learn, reflect, and connect emotionally with the ongoing crisis, perhaps finding hope in the potential of advocacy and activism to influence the destiny of God’s Creation.

### An Invitation from the Earth

*Take off your shoes.  
Like Moses, take off your shoes.  
This is holy ground.  
Walk gently through my woods.  
Tread softly on my face.  
Walk reverently through my garden.  
This is holy ground.  
This is God’s sanctuary.  
I invite you to worship with your feet this  
day.  
I invite you to walk across my landscape  
and sense the life within,*

*The glory that fills my body – God’s  
presence below.  
I invite you to reach down to the ho-  
ly ground beneath you.  
Walk in the water. Sink in the sand.  
Stand on a rock.  
You are walking on fire, the fire of  
God’s glory vibrant within.  
Take off your shoes. This is holy  
ground.  
This is the sanctuary of God.  
**Amen.***



**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**In Support of Neighbor Link Fountain**

*100% of all money received at the dinner, will go to support this vital community resource*

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

*47 McLachlin Street S, Arnprior (corner of Alicia St. and McLachlin St.)*

**Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>**

*4:30 pm to 7:00 pm*

**On the Menu**


*Spaghetti with choice of sauces (including vegetarian), salad, cookies, beverages*

**Cost is Free Will Offering**

*This event is open to all, and we ask that you donate only what you are able. All food has been donated and paid for by generous volunteers. The table is set for everybody to enjoy, and all funds and donations taken in will support those many in need in our community*

On **Sunday, September 29**, we included commemoration of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation within our worship. Here is a prayer from that time together.


**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**



September 30  
ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Vibrant God,  
Your creation explodes with the colours of the rainbow. Your peoples reveal the beauty of diversity. We remember today when the joy and dignity of a precious child was destroyed. We lament today for the childhoods lost through the residential school system. We mourn for the spirits crushed and the futures compromised.

Celebrate the hope and joy of every child. Tell the stories of resistance that make us stronger. Build the bonds of solidarity to ensure "never again." In the name of the one who was child among us. Amen.



**ELCIC**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

*\*Courtesy of the Presbyterian Church of Canada*



# October 2024



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>—Bartly & Linda Roberts**

**October 12<sup>th</sup>—Greg & Debbie Steinke**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>—Bob Hinchley  
& Enid Blackwell**



## **BIRTHDAYS**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>—Cathy Zimmerling**

**October 12<sup>th</sup>—Nate Zimmerling**

**October 21<sup>st</sup>—Jeff Kargus**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>—Rosemary Drziak**

**October 30<sup>th</sup>—Stella Boese**

**October 30<sup>th</sup>—June Wolff**

**October 31<sup>st</sup>—Joyce Headrick**



## **Reminder: Care with Pastor Leena**

Pastor Leena has now visited with home/care centre bound members twice this summer, along with some active pastoral care members, and has met a couple more folks. We thank her for this service of visitation and home communion!

We next expect Pastor Leena to spend a day with us on Monday October 21st. Remember, also, that she is pleased to connect with any more active members, families or congregational teams/groups who wish private or group time with her over the phone or in person or wish to include her in a gathering.

**Connecting:** You may reach Pastor Leena at [leenabjensen@yahoo.ca](mailto:leenabjensen@yahoo.ca) or by phone at: 1 613 631-1082.



## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### October 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
Sept 29	Andy Kalnins	Beryl & Keith	Andy & Cory / alt	Andy & Cory TBC	P+ Norine Supper @ Galilee	TBD
Oct 6	Mellissa W. & family	Barbara & Gerald	G,F,K Steinke	Marion & Elmer	Social Lorne & Jo Anne (TBC)	TBD
Oct 13	Mark Boese	Barbara & Gerald	G,F,K Steinke	Marion & Elmer		TBD
Oct 20	Cathy Zimmerling	Barbara & Gerald	G,F,K Steinke	Marion & Elmer		TBD
Oct 27	Ryan/Julie Z & family	Barbara & Gerald	G,F,K Steinke	Marion & Elmer	Social-TBC	TBD

### The Prayer Jar in the Narthex

This jar is a confidential place to list your prayer concerns and put them in the jar. NO ONE will be reading these at all. The Prayer Team simply raises up the contents in prayer without knowing what is requested on the notes.

Please feel free to add yours at any time, using the post it notes on the narthex table.