



# The Mustard Seed

## November 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
Melissa 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

It is an absolute pleasure and joy, to announce that on Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 at our congregational meeting, the congregation unanimously voted to call Sylvia Poetschke as our new pastor! We will share Pastor Sylvia with our brothers and sisters at St. James.

I can now tell you that we practically had to knock her out from the start! The new minister came close to not even making the long list!! You see our Synod loves forms, policies, and procedures. And certainly if it were not for forms, policies, and procedures the world as we know it, would be in danger of shutting down.

The candidates had to answer a question on a form that asked: *"In 50 words or less describe your passion for ministry"*. 50 words!! It was quite clear. And yet Sylvia's passion was so great, that it could not be described by her in 50 words – it took her 3 times that.

So, what should be done? An immediate exclusion of someone who cannot follow simple instructions? Perhaps as a child she coloured outside the lines! Will our small little church be able to accommodate someone whose love is so great for her job, that is cannot be contained by a restriction of word count?

I am going to say with full confidence and faith in the Spirit, that we are going to be able to more than just accommodate Pastor Sylvia, and she may well encourage us to reach higher than we thought possible.

For sure it is Sylvia's job to get to know us, but it is our job to get to know her. Over the coming days, weeks, and months, find out for yourself why she could not describe her passion for ministry in only 50 words. Ask about her time she spent as a pastor in our corrections system serving some of the most challenging and vulnerable folks on the planet (because that is a tough gig).

*Continued—>*

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

Ask her what it is to be an End-of-Life Doula (because she is one). Ask her what was the goofiest thing she did at her joint calling in St. Paul's Lutheran and Trinity United Churches in Magnetawan Ontario (because I think she has some goofiness in her). Ask her what she really thinks of the Ontario Horticulture Association (because the answer will be interesting).

Sylvia, her husband Graham, and a crew of dogs and cats live across the river in Portage-du-Fort. She loves to snowshoe, so there is no excuse for her to miss a service in a blizzard. She has made a paddle, so that means that she will never be up the creek without one.

We would not even be considering a new Pastor if it were not for the Call Search Committee. Under the joint leadership of Marilyn Kropp (from St. James) and Lorne Rueckwald, Ulla Schilling (St. James), John Stiefelmeyer (St. James), Enid Blackwell, and myself, we were able to make what I am convinced is the right call

Somewhere along the line if you attend church, or even think about attending church, you need to have faith in your understanding of the Holy Spirit. Things lined up for us to call Pastor Sylvia. A pastor serving far on the other side of Algonquin Park decides to move to this area. A pastor ordained in 2001, who has a great skill set that meets the needs of our congregation, shows up. A pastor who likes to colour outside the lines, has the crayon. Sometimes we need to have the faith to fall in the embrace of something more powerful than us. Perhaps this is one of those times.

As delightful as it has been to write these "Message from Council Chair" articles, it is time to close the keyboard on them. The "Message from Council Chair" was largely to replace, on a temporary basis, a message from a real minister. I, like all of you are, am looking forward to the next newsletter with a "Message from the Pastor".

/Andy Kalnins



# November 2024 Calendar

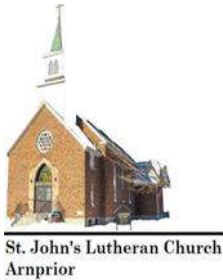
DATE	EVENT
Fridays	1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge
Wednesdays	6:00—7:00pm—Dance
<b>Sunday Nov 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word (Karen leading)</b></li> <li>• 11:3 a.m. — Congregational Meeting (Call committee recommendation).</li> </ul>
<b>Sunday Nov 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service — (Lay led)</b>
Saturday Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>	1:00—3:30pm — <b>UNPLUG</b> Decorating the Parade Float
<b>Sunday Nov 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion— Pr. Hackbusch</b>
Monday Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:00p.m. — Church Council Meets</li> </ul>
Saturday Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast at PJ's</li> </ul>
<b>Sunday Nov 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service — (Lay led)</b>
<b>Sunday Dec 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion Pastor Sylvia Poetschke</b>

## 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., Claude, Roy and John S.



## ***Draft Minutes of October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Council Meeting***

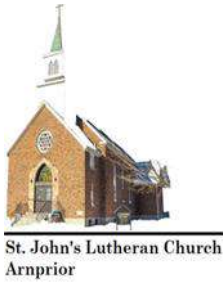
### **Attendance:**

Andy Kalnins (Zoom)	Debbie Witt	Fred Steinke
Enid Blackwell	Karen Greening	Mellissa Watt (regrets)

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. Enid opened with a prayer and welcomed everyone.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the September 16, 2024 minutes be accepted as distributed, with a correction under Property that John McIntyre has to see the church blueprints to provide more feedback on the lift. Seconded by Fred, CARRIED.
2. **Ministry Plans for November:** Karen may lead Nov 3 for All Saints, or another Sunday if Michael Hackbusch is available that day. Awaiting word on his availability for the month. Lay services for the rest of the month.
3. **Property:** Randy and Jeff discussed 4 property categories and coordination: routine maintenance tasks, projects, communication, and other. Randy prepared to continue with maintenance tasks; projects (e.g. window replacement, flooring, security camera, outdoor grass/snow scheduling) led based upon relevant skills; communication: Andy agreed to be contact person for members with queries/items to be addressed; other (e.g. property budget - Randy; other-discussion). Bell replaced all equipment related to our internet problems and refunded us for service interruption. Pastor's office painted thanks to Alison, and the new flooring has been purchased to be installed in November. Curtains to be put in the lounge/large board room. A new printer was donated and installed on the network, presently in pastor's office. Reminder signs to ensure all lights are turned off placed on the exit doors. Two security cameras to be installed in November. Furnace maintenance to be scheduled for November.
4. **Health & Safety:** Now that respiratory illness season is upon us, Andy will put a notice in the newsletter reminding everyone to use hand sanitizer and to stay home if you are sick.
5. **Pastoral Care:** Visits, home communion, and any other contact, continues one day a month, this month being Oct. 21 with Pastor Leena Jensen. Thanks to Beryl for accompaniment.
6. **Finances:** Ordinary budget: End of September surplus to expenses \$19,264, largely due to pastoral vacancy. Commitments: \$5,102 in September, presently short \$4,749 of being on target with budget to end Sept. We expect bigger bills in October for property projects. Charitus Partnership grant of \$3000 for accessible washroom held in other income; report due Sept. 2025. Christmas appeal planning tabled for Nov. Enid moved that the financial report for the end of September be accepted as presented. Karen seconded, CARRIED
7. **Call Process and Church Profile Update:** Andy reported that there will be a ballot vote on November 3 by congregational members for the minister candidate.
8. **Outreach:** Andy said plans are going well for the spaghetti dinner with lots of different sauces that have been prepared. Advertising is ongoing on different venues. All proceeds to the Fountain.
9. **Youth:** Sunday School will be on October 27 with Mellissa Watt.

**Close of Meeting:** Next meeting: Monday, November 18, 2024, 1:00 p.m.



## ***Draft Minutes of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 Congregational Meeting***

### **Council Members in Attendance**

Andy Kalnins	Debbie Witt	Melissa Watt (regrets)
Enid Blackwell	Fred Steinke	Karen Greening

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 pm. Enid opened with a prayer.

1. **Confirmation of Quorum:** Debbie confirmed that there are 32 people in attendance to vote which meets requirements for quorum.
2. **Appointment of Tellers (counters):** Andy announced the counters are Karen Greening and Maureen Rueckwald.
3. **Announcement of Candidate:** Debbie announced that Pastor Sylvia Poetschke is the name of the candidate.
4. **Candidate and Selection Rationale:** Lorne Rueckwald (Chair of Call Committee), spoke as to how the selection was made and why this candidate was chosen. He gave a synopsis of her background and experiences which made this a good choice for us.
5. **Questions from the Floor:** Andy answered questions from members and that Pastor Sylvia would be starting on December 1 as our Pastor.
6. **Call for Vote:** Andy announced a call to vote.
7. **Distribution, Collection and Counting of Ballots:** Karen and Maureen
8. **Announcement of Results:** Andy announced the results of the vote which is 32 votes for yes out of 32 voting members.
9. **Letter of Call:** Andy will be sending a letter of call results to Synod.
10. **Motion request to destroy the ballots:** Lynn Rosien made the motion that the ballots be destroyed. Seconded by Keith Richardson, CARRIED
11. **Meeting Adjourned**



On Sunday evening, October 6th a very unusual cloud formation was seen over the Ottawa area.

The clouds are known as ***Undulatus asperitas***, an uncommon and unique cloud so named after the Latin word for roughness, said Geoff Coulson, a warning preparedness meteorologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Meteorologists theorize that the clouds are caused by “pockets” of air rising and sinking in the atmosphere, combined with winds shifting direction quickly, known as wind shear. The World Meteorological Organization officially recognized asperitas clouds in 2015, making it the first new distinct cloud type in more than 50 years. (Ottawa Citizen, October 7th, 2024).

*Pictures courtesy of Dave Burkett*





## Seeking Mirror(s):

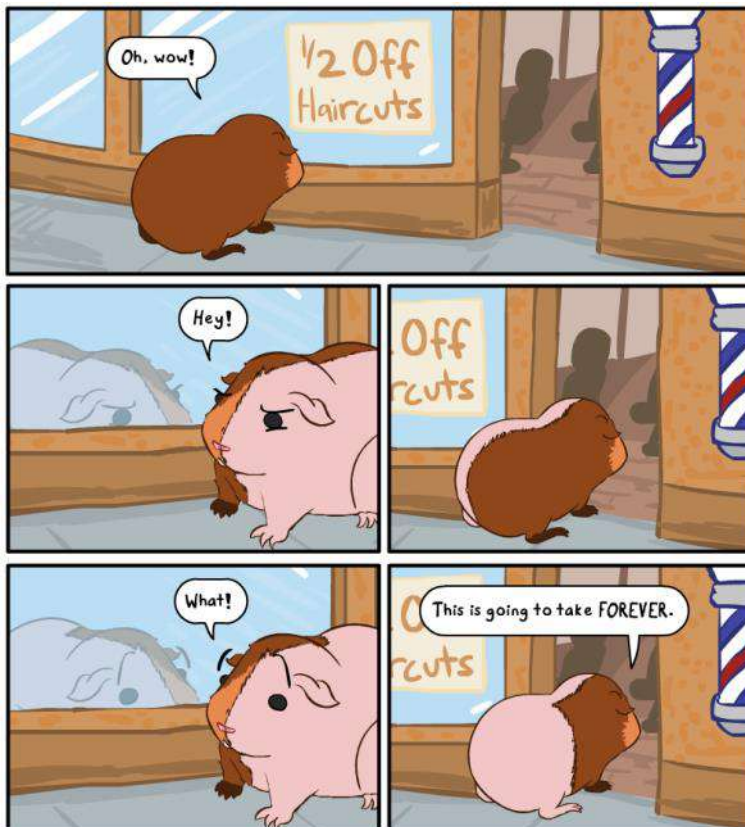
If anyone has a large mirror or two looking for a home, the dance program is interested. If it/they can be wall mounted, helpful. Or if you know of a good source, that would be helpful too. Size 2-4 feet by 4-8 feet, but smaller may work, too. Contact Enid, 613 623-7017.



Teacher: "Kids, what does the chicken give you?" Student: "Meat!" Teacher: "Very good! Now what does the pig give you?" Student: "Bacon!" Teacher: "Great! And what does the fat cow give you?" Student: "Homework!"

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven." Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven." Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Six." Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven!" Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!" Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Skeptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"







Sunday  
Sept 29<sup>th</sup> —  
Commem-  
oration of  
National  
Day for  
Truth and  
Reconcilia-  
tion.

Keith & Beryl  
Richardson,  
all ready for  
Hallowe'en!



Pastor Norine's Retirement Celebration!



Stella Boes's  
100th  
Birthday



Gwen Steinke's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!



October 25th  
Spaghetti Dinner  
in support of  
NeighbourLink  
Fountain.





# Thank You!

*Dear St. John's Faith Family,*

Thank you for the lovely retirement dinner on Sept 29. It was so great to see so many of you in attendance and a reminder that I am truly blessed! Thank you to all who were involved in organizing this great evening! Thank you for the beautiful picture. I have certainly cherished your support and prayers over this past year of ill health.



It has been an honor to have been your Pastor over the past 10 years. You have invited me into your homes to share your lives with me during normal days, during joyous times and during hard times. Together, we have been through baptisms, and weddings, a confirmation and funerals and many birthday celebrations. There are many great memories.

Ministry happens when a Pastor is able to work with a loyal group of committed people. St. John's is blessed with a variety of people with a variety of talents. I encourage you to be faith-filled and continue to work together trusting in God as you move ahead into your future.

May God bless your ministry always!

*Sincerely, Pastor Norine*

## November 2024



### **BIRTHDAYS**



**November 6<sup>th</sup>—Mel Bretzlaff**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>—Bartly Roberts**

**November 18<sup>th</sup>—Nathan Brohart**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>—Bob Witt**



## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### November 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL
Nov 3	Joy Statham	Lorne & Jo Anne	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	
Nov 10	Bob Witt	Lorne & Jo Anne	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	
Nov 17	Maureen Rueckwald	Lorne & Jo Anne	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	TBC
Nov 24	Mark Boese	Lorne & Jo Anne	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	TBC
Dec 1	Jessica Z. & Family	Beryl & Keith	Marion & Elmer	Mel & Marion	TBC



Now that Respiratory Virus season is here, everyone is reminded to stay away from others if you are symptomatic, and sanitize often.



### 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.