



The Mustard Seed

**November -
December 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

Reflections from our Pastor

New Year's Before Christmas?

Once again, the church reminds us that we, as followers of Christ, don't always "fit in" with the local culture including timing. Yes, we observe the New Year before Christmas. The new year ushers in our season of preparation - Advent - a time where we open ourselves up to see what new things Jesus is offering.

As November begins, I am asking myself where July and September went - I can look back and recall the fun of Confirmation Camp in August, and the joy of Thanksgiving and Reformation in October. Time races by. After giving thanks for the saints that rest in Christ, and claiming our own belovedness, we have just a couple of weeks before we find ourselves preparing for the new year - November 30th is the first Advent and the first Sunday of Year A - the year we focus on understanding Christ through the teachings in the book of Mark.

Some of my New Year preparations include a bit of planning ahead - what theme can we focus on in Mark? Where is Jesus leading us in the year ahead? Where does the world's greatest need meet our greatest passion? Personally, I consider what I am called to focus on in the year ahead.

I do know that it promises to be a rich year of worship, learning and giving thanks for the wonderful mystery that pulls us together as followers of Christ.

On a personal note, I try to use this time to look back at the year behind us. It has been a year of change as we "retired", moved, prayed and accepted the call to "unretire" and serve in Ontario while setting down home-roots in Quebec, with a round-the-world trip in the midst of it - and so much more. We have much to be grateful for. Thank you inviting us to be a part of your congregational ministry!

Continued —>

Pastor's reflections continued.

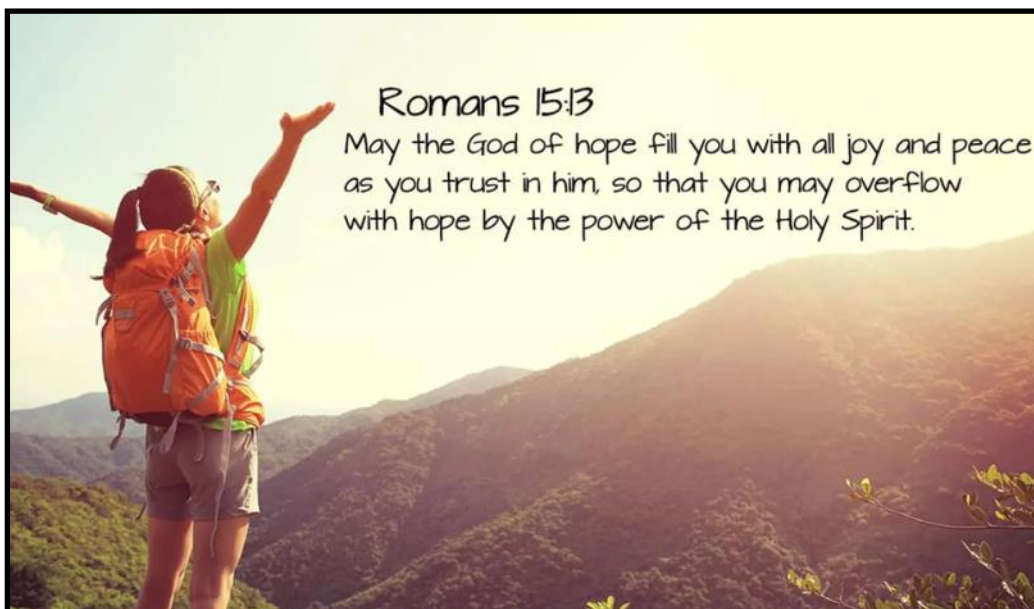
I also take this time of year to plan ahead. How will I organize my time, my talent and my treasure? I am continuing to try to ensure that I practice what I preach and take time to notice the beauty around us, to read fiction, to rest my body, spirit and mind. Like many, I can get absorbed in the ministry I try to offer and forget to pause and let God, and others, care for me. I hope to keep a healthy stewardship of time between church and home, with a hope to continue to try to learn new things, and stick with them. And, this is the time of year where I set out my stewardship of treasure for the year ahead. As clergy, much of my offering is gifted to the ministry of CLWR, but I have a couple of Indigenous charities that I support with a heart for active reconciliation.

Truth is, there is much need in the world, and I find it helpful to identify how I will respond based on what I am able to offer in faith. Time talent and treasure. Gifts of God for God's work.

I find that intentional planning during November sets me in good stead to begin the new church year, and prepare for whatever God offers this year as well as setting the tone for the Advent season.

Our world is challenging, and frightening. Wonder-filled and tender. We find courage and hope, perhaps even peace, when we ground ourselves in God. Life wasn't easy in the time of Christ, and he offers so many lessons and actions to remind us - God is with us. We have choices and power to share in decision making. May we do so in faith.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Sylvia



December Reflections from our Pastor

Thinking ahead...

T'was the 4th Sunday of Advent and all was ready.

Or not?

What does it mean for us to be "ready" for Christmas - "ready" for Christ?

For some, being ready means to be in control, using careful plans and lists to have everything just right. For others, it is taking time to focus on who Jesus is in our lives, and what is being gifted to us this season.

For most of us, I suspect it is a combination between the cultural celebration with plans, lists and traditions that are woven together with a sense of awe and wonder and spiritual hope.

We don't need to fret about whether or not we have the correct amount of Christ in our Christmas. Instead, perhaps we can do what gives us meaning at this time of year - hosting and gathering together, or savouring time spent alone on a snowy walk or with a good book. We are God's good creation, and Christ is in Christmas in the way that God plans - no right or wrong way. It is a time to be open, to relax and to be patient and wait to see what Jesus has for us this year.

For those who are struggling, reach out. Christmas can be hard. For those who are fortunate, give thanks.

Whatever Christmas offers this year, it is enough: Jesus is present. Vulnerable as we are. Offering hope and comfort, joy and peace. The gifts of Advent on the way!

Peace and Blessings,

Rev Sylvia



Eternity for Today

We are renewing our group subscription for 2026 for these daily devotional booklets produced by our national church body. A new booklet is issued every 3 months - 4 in total to cover the year.

All current subscriptions are 'in', but **if you are new to Eternity for Today, and wish to try it out in 2026**, please contact Enid eblackwell.ca@gmail.com, [613 623-7017](tel:6136237017).



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior

Draft Minutes of Oct 27th, 2025 Council Meeting

Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order 1:00 pm. Andy opened with a reflection and prayer.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the September 22, 2025 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Karen. CARRIED.
2. **Financial Report:** Commitments were around \$6,300 in September. Operating expenses exceed expenses by some \$6000, but with recognition of early Oct. deposit of St. James Sept. cheque, projection down to \$3,600. 3rd quarter Charitus income increase of \$851. Bank account \$11,611, Charitus is \$79,822 and cashable GIC is \$5,022. Enid moved that the financial report to end of September be accepted as presented. Fred seconded. CARRIED
3. **Pastoral Report:** Council reviewed Pr. Sylvia's written report for September.
4. **Finance AGM:** Confirmed Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 23 after service to present best estimate for 2025 year end, and the 2026 budget for approval. Date of AGM in early 2026 yet to be determined.
5. **Property:** Programmable thermostats are to be installed this year. The roof is to be checked and possibly finish the flashing. The need for organ tuning this year to be determined.
6. **Dickens and Carols:** This Outreach free event will be held on Saturday, December 13. Propose Debbie Kargus will purchase some snack treats from Costco for social following the event.
7. **Christmas Pageant and Float:** Council approves pageant and float; Andy to contact Ryan Zimmerling.
8. **Pews:** Pews will be put back for the Dickens event to have extra seating and for the Christmas Eve service. It will be decided in the new year as what to do with them.
9. **Alternative Services:** Saturday, November 22 possible healing service, separate from Sunday service. TBD
10. **Shared Ministry:** We have to look ahead at shared work with St. James for events/services/timing / connections/pastoral ministry. Two names proposed for committee; TBC.
11. **Longer Table/Kitchen:** Longer Table received helpful funding through a recent Witch Walk. Public Health advised they do not currently inspect kitchens, such as ours. We expect we may still be able to store dried/canned food in our basement. Arrangements with The Longer Table may be made for this.
12. **Meeting closure:** Meeting closed with thanks from Andy. Next regular meeting: November 17, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

November-December 2025



Dec 7th—Judith & Stan Johnstone

Dec 30th—Alison & Dave Burkett

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Nov 6th—Mel Bretzlaff

Nov 12th—Bartly Roberts

Nov 18th—Nathan Brohart

Nov 22th—Bob Witt

Dec 4th—Kathy Tonkin

Dec 11th—Gerald Formuziewich

Dec 25th—Jacob Elliot

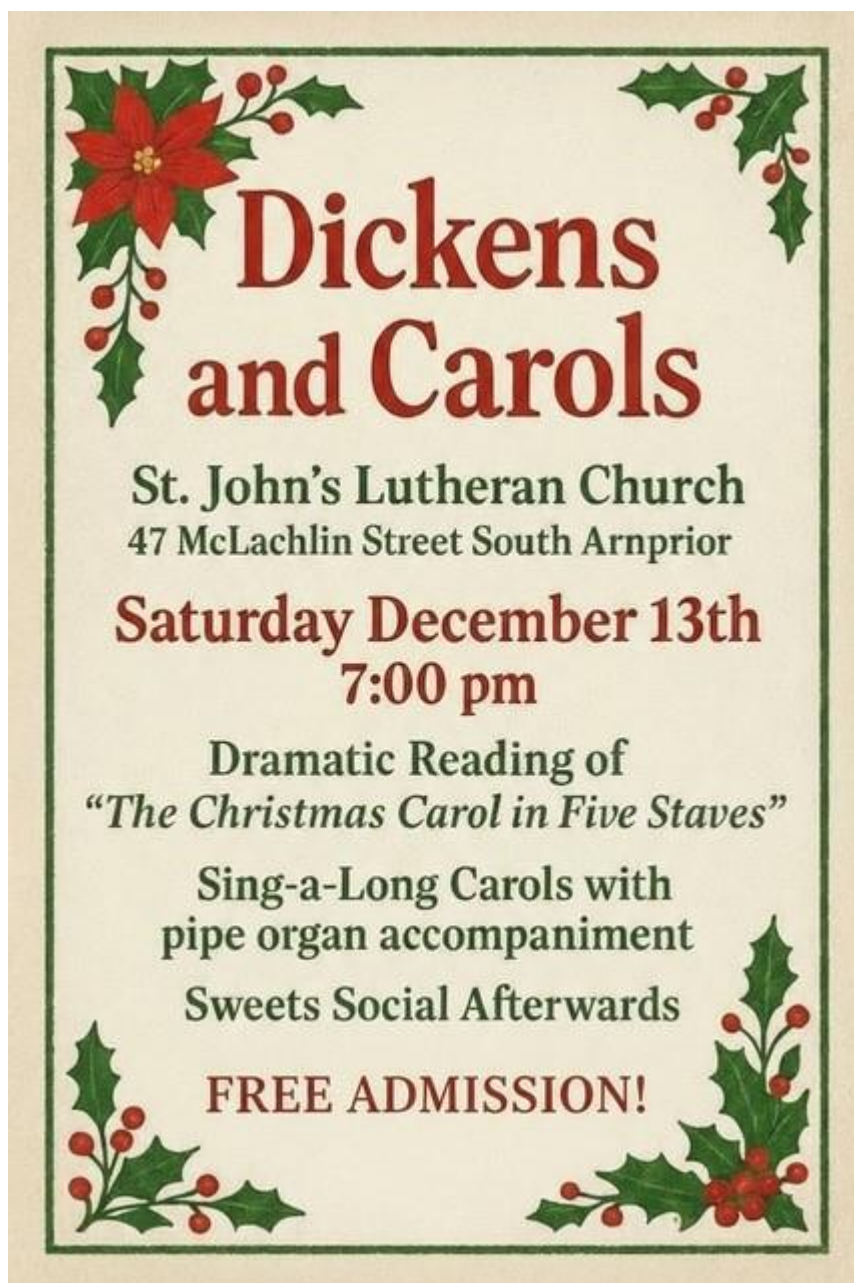
Humour



- ♦ Archaeologists say they have learned how long dinosaurs lived. They say it was about the same as short ones.
- ♦ The CEO of Ikea was appointed Prime Minister of Sweden, he's currently assembling his cabinet.
- ♦ Smoking will kill you. Bacon will kill you. Smoking Bacon will cure it.
- ♦ I was on a diabetes awareness website and it asked me if I accept cookies. Is this a trick question?
- ♦ Which days are the strongest? Saturday and Sunday. The rest are weekdays.



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 Nov 2nd	10:30 a.m.—Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Lynne Z.
Sunday Nov 9th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Lynne Z.
Saturday Nov 15th	9:00—Men's Breakfast at Jim's
Sunday Nov 16th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion • Music: Karen P. • Sunday School
Monday Nov 17th	1:00—Council Meets
Sunday Nov 23th	• 10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Lynne • SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO APPROVE BUDGET
Saturday Nov 29th	6:00-8:00p.m.—Arnprior Santa Clause Parade (St. John's Float) - remember to bring any excess candy to the church.
Sunday Nov 30th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion Advent: Music: Electronic Music
Sunday Dec 7th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Lynne Z.
Saturday Dec 13th	• 9:00a.m.— Men's Breakfast at Jim's • 7:00p.m.—Dickens & Carols—Dramatic Reading.
Sunday Dec 14th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion Music: Karen P.
Sunday Dec 21st	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion Music Lynne Z. Sunday School: Pageant Preparation
Wednesday Dec 24th	7:00—Christmas Eve Service with Children's Pageant Music Craig B.
Sunday Dec 28th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion—Electronic Music



See the Facebook post: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1177111830958827>

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on
Sunday November 23rd following the Worship Service.

This meeting is to present and accept the 2026 Budget.

Radon Awareness Month

November is Radon Awareness month. Please consider testing your home. The Ottawa Valley (both sides of the river) often have unknown high radon readings. Remediation requires professionals but it is manageable and not overly disruptive. Financial support is available through the Lung Association. Ask me for more information / Pr. Sylvia.

Reducing the risk of Lung Cancer starts at the ground level.

Radon comes from the soil and enters buildings through contact with the ground. The longer people are exposed to radon, the greater their risk of lung cancer. Testing for radon is the only way to determine radon levels in a building.

If your radon levels are high - they can be lowered by installing a radon mitigation system.



Radon Test kits can be ordered at:
takeactiononradon.ca



You are invited:

Join us on **Saturday, November 22nd at 11:00 am**
For a service for healing and hope.

We are all in need of healing.

Justice	Peace
Hope	Relief
Wholeness	Belonging
Reconciliation	

Bring your needs, the needs of the world and your hopes and fears for a time of sanctuary.

Laying on of hands will be offered, gently and not required.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Anglican EVENSONG

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

All welcome

To celebrate the Festival of the Reign of Christ (Last Sunday before Advent)

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 23
4:00 PM**

AT EMMANUEL
ANGLICAN CHURCH
287 HARRINGTON ST,
ARNPRIOR, ON K7S 2V2



THE GIRL'S CHOIR OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OTTAWA

FREE WILL OFFERING AT THE DOOR.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief

The newsletter is early, but
please don't forget!!!

The link below will take you to
the 2025 catalogue, but you can
always donate and help reflect
God's love and hope while giv-
ing thanks for blessings.

<https://www.clwr.org/gifts>



CLAY 2025—A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

God of all,

The church doesn't always recognize or value young people.
But we are the past, present, and future of this church.

We have talents to offer if there was space for us to share them.
We have building spaces that we aren't using to their full potential.

By giving youth the chance to invest and sow seeds into the church,
we will grow old and reap the benefits of a church we built together on the rock of Christ.

CLAY understands that youth hold the future of the church,
but what work will be done beyond CLAY?

Jesus said, "let the children come to me,"

We pray for a church like Jesus welcoming people from all backgrounds, ages, and status,
because it is through the wideness of that community that the church exists today.

So, God,

We pray to be conscious of the needs of the people around us and our own.
To be a church where we take what we need and no more.

A church that focuses more on keeping the cause alive, not just the building.
We pray for a church shaped by love, humility, forgiveness; a church that gives us purpose.

A Church that knows how to welcome new people, even when it means change.
A Church for everyone.

We long for a church of loving your neighbour. An enthusiastic community.
A church shaped by youth's perspectives. Hospitality. Compassion. Acceptance.

We have a theology of grace that can be an antidote to bad religion,
because we recognize the unconditional love of God.

We pray to be a church that focuses even more on raising up the next generation of youth.
We pray for a church that breaks down barriers. An intergenerational community.



Honourary Assistant Affirmation: for
Pastor Norine



A group of friends & family gathered to celebrate
Mel and Marion's 66th anniversary.



Kargus family: Baby Jude's Baptism



REFORMATION

CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 2 - 2025
5:30pm - ???



HYMNS & HOPS

Come and join us in a rousing hymn-sing
at Brauwerk Brew House.
Light refreshments will be available as well as
beer served at cost.



1298 Rte 148, Campbell's Bay, Quebec J0X 1K0



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

November & December 2025

DATE	READER	ALTAR	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	MUSIC	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL
Nov 2nd	Andy Kalnins	Jo-Anne	Karen	Lynne Z.	Maureen & Lorne	Debbie & Bob W.	
Nov 9th	Seth Malina	Jo-Anne	Andy	Lynne Z.	Maureen & Lorne	Cheryl & Andy	TBC
Nov 16th	Ryan/Julie/Family	Jo-Anne	Enid	Karen P.	Maureen & Lorne	Maureen & Lorne	
Nov 23rd	Cheryl	Jo-Anne	Seth	Lynne Z.	Maureen & Lorne	Cheryl & TBC	TBC
Nov 30th	Karen	Jo-Anne	Pr. Norine	Electronic	Maureen & Lorne	TBC	
Dec 7th	Melissa / Family	Cathy	Bob W.	Lynne Z.	G, K, F Steinke	Andy & Cory	TBC
Dec 14th	Jeff/Debbie	Cathy	Karen	Karen P.	G, K, F Steinke	Andy & Cory	
Dec 21st	Maureen	Cathy	Jeff	Lynne Z.	G, K, F Steinke	Andy & Cory	TBC
Dec 24th	TBC	Cathy	Andy	Craig B.	G, K, F Steinke	Andy & Cory	
Dec 28th	Bob Witt	Cathy	Cory	Electronic	G, K, F Steinke	Andy & Cory	