



The Mustard Seed

June 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
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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

Dear friends,

Finally, in this last week of May we have some warmer weather, and the sun has returned. It certainly felt like a wet and dreary May.

Of course, Graham and I missed half of the month while we were on vacation! Thank you to everyone who wished us well and those who gathered together sharing in worship leadership and community. It was a fantastic, whirlwind trip with a perfect balance of family time, sight-seeing and rest. It is good to be home!

While I was away I had some time to think about our first few months of serving God together. It is amazing to me how God led us to the Valley, and back into parish service - after 6 weeks of retirement. I am blessed.

I have learned that some are facing challenges of many kinds, and, if you aren't personally, you probably know someone dear who is. The gift of aging is, in part, how life changes.

Like many of you, I spend a bit of time with scripture daily. Very often it is the lectionary readings, either for the day or the Sunday ahead. But, I also go on the hunt from time-to-time, seeking what scripture has to say about whatever is happening in life.

As I was praying and meandering through the Bible, I found this:

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

"Inwardly we are being renewed, day by day." A good reminder these days. May it be so,

In service,
rev sylvia

June 2025 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Muslim Community	Weekly Prayers: 1:00-2:00 p.m.— each Friday in the Lounge.
Sunday June 1st	10:30 a.m.—Worship Service with Holy Communion – Music Lynne Z.
Saturday June 7th	11:30 — Big Give BBQ at the church
Sunday June 8th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion – Music: Lynne Z.
Saturday June 14th	9:00a.m.—Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s
Sunday June 15th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion – Music: Karen P.
Sunday June 22nd	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion
Monday June 23rd	1:00p.m.—Church Council Meets
Sunday June 29th	10:30a.m.— Worship Service with Holy Communion



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arnprior

Draft Minutes of May 19th, 2025 Council Meeting

Attendance:

Pr. Sylvia Poetschke
Andy Kalnins
Enid Blackwell

Karen Greening
Debbie Witt

Mellissa Watt
Fred Steinke

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm. Pr. Sylvia opened with an alternative creed reading for hour of despair from *Liturgies from Below*.

Previous Minutes: Debbie moved that the April 14, 2025 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Karen, CARRIED.

Church Safety:

1. Protection of youth and vulnerable adults

The church "Abuse Protection Policy" was reviewed and affirmed.

2. Record storage and security

Pr. Sylvia will take charge of this with respect to police checks, individual confirmation of abuse protection review, updating of checks, and keep related files in a locked cabinet in her office for confidentiality. She will also guide those to the website <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=147> and assist individually as needed.

3. Repairs and Building Modifications

Randy supplied a list of things to be done and one is the front steps to be done as they are deteriorating. Fred to check with Randy on steps and plans as to how to handle this project. Those doing walk through checks will weed the front gardens as needed. Alison to be contacted on what can be let go in the loft before cleaning. Pews to be deferred for now.

4. Emergency Planning

Andy and Lorne will work on this.

5. Counting Safety

A new location of counting box is being considered so people don't have to carry it very far.

Finances:

Oral comments: Commitments in April over \$6000, and higher than in March and February. Total received to end of April are \$34,151 and bank balance is \$19,482. Arnprior Community Choir rented for tenor practice; fundraising/community program of dance and yoga suspended in May due leader's other commitments. Charitus investment is \$53,300 given transfer of \$20,000 and first quarter growth of some \$400. Synod office has been contacted concerning views on possible membership in Canadian Centre for Christian Charities (CCCC) and decision to proceed or not approved by council.

Major Topics:

Church Visioning. Andy has contacted Katja Brittain, interim Synod redevelopment advisor, concerning future directions of congregations. A Zoom meeting with Council will be planned. Date TBD.

Big Give:

To be on June 7 for a neighbourhood BBQ for anyone who would like to stop in. Pr. Sylvia to make up a little SJL information note, to be given to individuals with their BBQ food.

Meeting closure: Meeting closed with a benediction offered by Pr. Sylvia.

Next regular meeting: June 23, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Two people read the same Bible.
One sees reasons to love.
The other reasons to hate.
One sees unity.
The other division.
One finds prejudice.
The other equality.
One discovers compassion.
The other, indifference.
One goodwill.
The other malice.
Two people, one book. One Book, two views.
The book is a mirror.
The reflection is you.

N.W.

Reflections



To Say Nothing But Thank You

All day I try to say nothing but thank you,
breathe the syllables in and out with every step I
take through the rooms of my house and outside into
a profusion of shaggy-headed dandelions in the garden
where the tulips' black stamens shake in their crimson cups.

I am saying thank you, yes, to this burgeoning spring
and to the cold wind of its changes. Gratitude comes easy
after a hot shower, when my loosened muscles work,
when eyes and mind begin to clear and even unruly
hair combs into place.

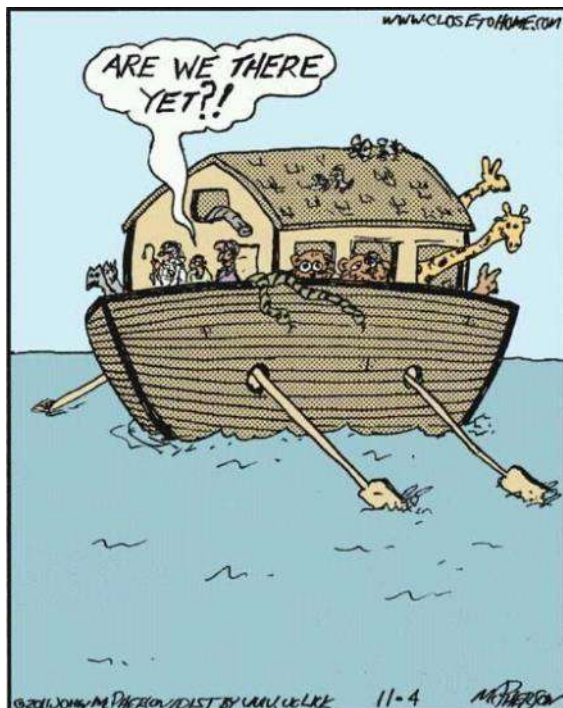
Dialogue with the invisible can go on every minute,
and with surprising gaiety I am saying thank you as I
remember who I am, a woman learning to praise
something as small as dandelion petals floating on the
steaming surface of this bowl of vegetable soup,
my happy, savoring tongue.

—Jeanne Lohmann

Humour

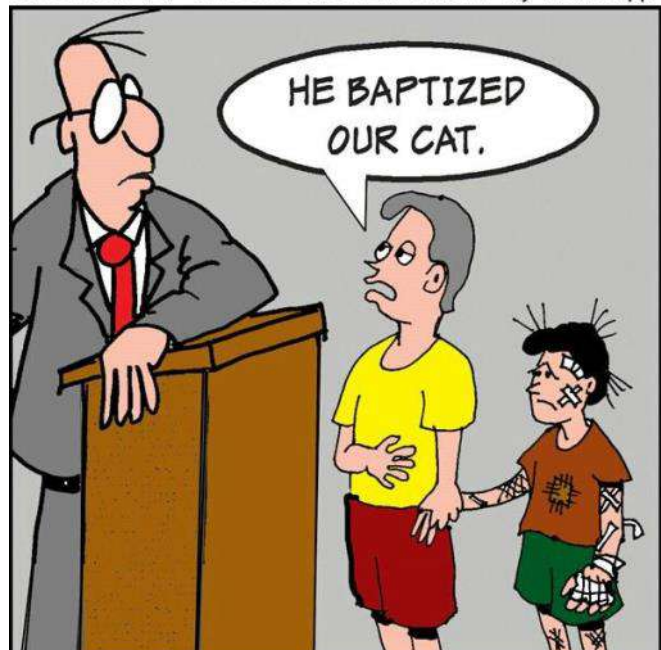


Two guys are walking through a game park & they come across a lion that has not eaten for days. The lion starts chasing the two men. They run as fast as they can and the one guy starts getting tired and decides to say a prayer, "Please turn this lion into a Christian, Lord." He looks to see if the lion is still chasing and he sees the lion on its knees. Happy to see his prayer answered, he turns around and heads towards the lion. As he comes closer to the lion, he hears the lion saying a prayer: "Thank you Lord for the food I am about to receive."



The famous question is asked for the first time.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp





Confirmation Camp & Learning

Last chance: If you know of a young person (12-16ish) who is interested in affirming their baptism, and learning more about God and the church please contact pastor Sylvia now - registration for Confirmation Camp is closing soon. Pastors across the Synod (including Pr. Sylvia) have set the week of July 6-11th for affirmation of baptism teaching and relationship building. This week complements personalized addition study that is responsive to the individual student. There is a \$100 bursary available (limited numbers) which reduces the cost, but contact pr. Sylvia if financial support is helpful to participate.

St. John's participation in the Big Give:

Join us for a free BBQ and drink on Saturday June 7. Starts at 11:30 until 1:00.

thebiggive.ca

The First Saturday in June

A National
Movement of
Generosity



The Big
Give

June 7, 2025

Arnprior's Participating Churches:

- ✓ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- ✓ Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church
- ✓ River Stone Christian Fellowship
- ✓ Gateway Church
- ✓ St. John's Lutheran
- ✓ Arnprior Youth

Arnprior's Participating Churches:

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	80 Daniel St. N. 9 am – 11 am	Free coffee, tea, juice, cold water, muffins, fruit, cheese, and crackers for anyone wishing to stop in for a morning break!
Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church	116 Baskin Dr. W. 9 am – 12 pm	Free garage sale give-away, BBQ, bouncy castle, cotton candy! Note: There will be no clothing this year.
River Stone Christian Fellowship	160 John St. N. 10:30 am – 12 pm	Serving up free ice cream at The Flavour Container! Note: The Flavour Container is downtown across from the museum.
Gateway Church	128 Mary St. 11 am – 2 pm	Free BBQ, drinks and chips, bouncy castle, face painting, ring toss, bean bag toss, ladder golf, and more!
St. John's Lutheran	47 McLachlin St. S. 11:30 am – 1 pm	Free BBQ, hotdogs, hamburgers, pop, water.
Arnprior Youth	132 John St. 11 am – 1 pm	Free BBQ hotdogs! Note: Will be held downtown behind Shoppers.



Serving our Community!

Photos, Courtesy of Randy & Dave

Emily Burkett Playing the Postlude.



Barb enjoying the attention at her Birthday celebration.



Gifts from Enid's Garden

Helpful neighbours—kids picked dandelions from the church lawn.





VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

June 2025

DATE	READER	ALTAR	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	MUSIC	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL
June 1 st	Jessica Z & family	Cathy Z.	Jeff	Lynne Z.	Andy & Cory	Andy & Cory	
June 8 th	Cathy Zimmerling	Cathy Z.	Seth	Lynne Z.	Lorne & Maureen	Andy & Cory	TBC
June 15 th	Maureen Rueckwald	Cathy Z.	Pr. Norine	Karen P.	Lorne & Maureen	Andy & Cory	
June 22 nd	Joy Staham	Jo Anne	Bob W.		Lorne & Maureen	Andy & Cory	
June 29 th	Seth Malina	Jo Anne	Enid		Lorne & Maureen	Andy & Cory	TBC

Grounds:	Weeks of June 1, June 8, June 15:	Jeff Kargus
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June 2025



**June 24th—Barbara & Gerald
Formuziewich**
**June 29th—Cathy & Randy
Zimmerling**



June 6th—Pr. Norine
June 14th—Cory Weckwerth
June 15th—Anda Kalnins
June 23rd—Bob Hinchley
June 23th—Shane Zimmerling
June 24th—Kaleigh Craig