

The Mustard Seed

April 2021

*The Monthly Newsletter
of
St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

47 McLachlin St. S., Arnprior
Ontario K7S 2Z1

Pastor:

Norine Gullons 613-282-5032
Church Office: 613-623-4562

Church Council

Enid Blackwell	623-7017
Debbie Witt	623-1500
Dave Burkett	618-5729
Cory Weckwerth	793-3701
Andy Kalnins	863-0202
Alison Burkett	618-5716

See us on facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior

On the web: stjohnsarnprior.com

Pastor's Message

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed!

As spring is upon us, we rejoice in the blessings of the Easter Season and God's grace among us. By raising Jesus from the dead, God reveals that God is interested in all people and desires all of us to share in the life of Christ.

As churches, we had to "turn on a dime" over Easter weekend to adhere to the latest Public Health Orders. (St. James Lutheran Church in Renfrew closed again.) I have touched base with all of our "senior" members, and have learned that all have received their first vaccinations against Covid -19. "Faith leaders" were recently added to the list of those eligible to register, and so I too, have now received my first vaccination. I believe that this is an essential step that we all need to take, to safely help build protection against the virus.

On Maundy Thursday we heard Jesus words, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you." We enter the season of Easter with that call to love and serve others as best as we can. Love changes lives. God loved us enough to change our lives through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We can connect with others in small but significant ways in these days ahead. As we remember that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Pastor Norine

"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

April Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT
Sunday April 11th	Second Sunday in Easter: pre-recorded Service available on YouTube.
Wed April 14 th	UNPLUG team meets at 8:30 via Zoom
Thurs April 15 th	Cluster Pastors meet via zoom call.
Sunday April 18th	Third Sunday in Easter: pre-recorded Service available on YouTube.
Monday April 19 th	Church Council meet at 7pm via ZOOM call.
Sunday April 25th	Fourth Sunday in Easter: pre-recorded Service available on YouTube.
Sunday May 2nd	Fifth Sunday in Easter: pre-recorded Service with Holy Communion available on YouTube.

Continuation of Online and Script Worship

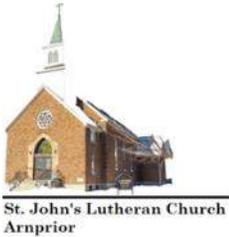
St. John's will continue with online services and delivery of scripts for the present. When it is considered safe for the faith community, and provincial and public health guidelines allow, we will return to in person worship. This will also depend upon being able to enlist volunteers for in person service requirements during these times.

Congregational council is monitoring the situation, and will advise by newsletter, and/or email and written or phone notice when in person worship is resuming.

In the meantime, keep those phone and remote connections going round your families, the community and beyond! Any questions, needs or concerns, please leave a message on the church number, 613 623-4562, or contact a council member.

We are heartened to hear that over the last while, more are receiving their first COVID vaccine doses. Stay safe and well!

And, as always, thank you for faithful communication, care, support and hope.



Council Meeting Minutes

March 15th 2021

Attendance (via ZOOM)

Enid Blackwell
Cory Weckwerth
Alison Burkett

David Burkett
Andy Kalnins

Pr. Norine
Debbie Witt

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 and Pastor opened with a reading and a prayer.

Roundtable check-in

1. **INSTALLATION:** Pastor installed the new council: Enid as Chair, Andy Kalnins as Vice-chair, Dave Burkett as secretary, Alison Burkett as Treasurer, Cory Weckwerth, and Debbie Witt. Randy and Jeff were thanked for their many years on council.
2. **Previous Minutes:** Dave moved that the February 22, 2021 minutes be approved as circulated, Andy seconded. **CARRIED**
3. **Finance:**
 - Alison presented the P&L and Balance Sheet. There is a small deficit (\$348), much less than this time last year (\$2100). Alison explained the designated funds. Alison moved and Andy seconded: "That any special Easter offering be directed to operating". **CARRIED** The Charity Return for 2020 is underway. Council members and officers need to be reported on this form. Financial secretary is usually reported on this form.
 - Moved by Alison and seconded by Debbie "That Cathy Zimmerling be appointed for a one-year term ending at the AGM for the 2021 year (Feb 2022).
 - Andy moved and seconded by Cory "That the Treasurer's report be accepted", **CARRIED**
 - *Alison departed the meeting.*
4. **Pastor's report:**

Pastor presented her report. Synod has distributed a survey to congregations regarding COVID. Enid and Pastor will fill it out and report to council. Hours at St. James are going up. Andy moved and Cory seconded "That Enid be the lay delegate to the Synod Convention." **CARRIED.**
5. **Communications:**
 - Enid presented her report. Discussion around getting the service to the people without internet. Andy and Enid explored playing the service over the phone. Survey showed no interested in this. Happy with Paper and services available on TV. Enid talked about easter Cards / Baskets. Andy and Enid working on this. April newsletter deadline March 31st.
 - Dave presented the strategy for dealing with copyright issues. All videos are now being marked as UNLISTED. This means it isn't searchable on YouTube, you must have the link. This confines viewership to those in our congregation and Friends. That means that we fall under the Worship exemption clause for copyright. We will hold off on purchasing a OneLicense subscription as it appears to not offer anything additional.
6. **Outreach:** Andy hosted a zoom call regarding the Lenten light project. Jeff to host the next one Thursday March 18th at 7:00pm.

Continued over -->

7. Children, Youth, Family:

- Deadline for applications for Unplug youth leader is extended to March 30th, due to minimal response. Next meeting April 1st.
- Easter involvement for children: suggested that they be asked to make cards. End to invite families to participate by dropping cards in mailbox before April 3rd. Suggested engaging children as readers.

8. Property Update:

- An invitation to members to help out with cleaning occasionally will be placed in the April newsletter.
- St. James Tables – Andy moved and Debbie seconded, “that we purchase the 10 tables from St. James” at a cost of \$300. CARRIED. Perhaps there will be chairs left over.

10. Other Business

- Re-opening: Andy suggested we remain closed for the month of April.
- Constitution renewal. It is time to begin the process of renewing the constitution. Andy moved and seconded by Dave “That St John’s Lutheran Church establish a committee (or ad hoc committee, or task force?) to review our Church Constitution and Bylaws and provide an updated document for review by CC, and recommendation for adoption by members of the church. This committee is to be chaired by a member of Church Council and include 1 to 2 other members. Andy moved and Cory seconded that “Debbie will lead the committee to renew the constitution”. CARRIED.

NEXT MEETINGS: Council April 19th.

Adjournment: 8:50

PRAYER LIST

We normally have this list on our Sunday bulletin. Please pray for these people in your daily prayer:

From both congregations: Chris & Kathy, Ed & Rosemary, Lucas and family, and Joe & Shelley, Vicki and Elmer.

Friends of the Parish: Joan, Leslie, Ron K., Tere B., Lorraine, Barb L., Jodie, Mary, Lucille, Brenda and Spencer.

We pray for all those who are essential workers, that they may be protected and vaccinated soon.

Bless you for believing in the power of prayers.

If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.



COMING SOON

Next month, watch for a new Mustard Seed newsletter feature called:

Meet Our Members.

In it, you will get to know the story of one or more of our members, those with forever ties, and those with more recent membership.

We may 'know' one another to some extent, but probably less than we think. This is a chance to do some sharing and some thanking and to improve our ability to work together and include and affirm one another. And in these times of limited socializing, strengthening our connections in other ways becomes more important.

So, if someone phones to chat a bit with you about 'you', don't worry about it! It should be fun and easy. It is totally your choice, and you will get to ok the writeup. And if you can provide a photo, great!

SPIRIT Open My Heart

Refrain: SPIRIT, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
SPIRIT, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart
With a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
To your grace I now surrender.

May I weep with those who weep,
Share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of CHRIST,
May we welcome ONE ANOTHER.

Write your love upon my heart
As my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
May my living bring you glory.

Listen to a music edition of this hymn on the St. John's facebook.



POETRY CORNER

Jan Richardson

Beloved is where we begin.

Beloved friends,

Here in Florida, it has just turned midnight. Once again I find myself thinking about that beautiful detail in John's Gospel where he tells us that Mary Magdalene goes to Jesus' tomb while it is still dark. And in the darkness, before the dawn has begun, all that she finds is emptiness: there is no body, no beloved, only an absence that must echo the hollow she carries in her own heart.

And then, angels; and then, one who comes to her, calling her name. Confusion turns to clarity, and tears give way to astonished joy. The Magdalene sees.

Oh, my friends. It is Easter Day. Even in the shadows, resurrection is beginning. In the emptiness, in the echoing hollow of our heart, may we hear our name called with a love that breaks into our bewilderment and fear. May we know and see anew the Christ who comes to us in the darkness and in the day, beckoning us to begin again.

Peace,

Jan

Seen

A Blessing for Easter Day

You had not imagined
that something so empty
could fill you
to overflowing,

and now you carry
the knowledge
like an awful treasure
or like a child
that curls itself
within your heart:

how the emptiness
will bear forth
a new world
you cannot fathom
but on whose edge
you stand.

So why do you linger?

You have seen,
and so you are
already blessed.

You have been seen,
and so you are
the blessing.

There is no other word
you need.

There is simply
to go
and tell.

There is simply
to begin.

—Jan Richardson

from [*Circle of Grace: A
Book of Blessings for the
Seasons*](#)



To all the folks at St. John's,

The thoughtfulness you all have shown has meant so much and always will.

For acts of kindness never fade, since time just makes them sweeter still.

Thanks for helping us celebrate our 75th wedding anniversary with all your phone calls and cards.

They were very much appreciated.

sincerely, Bill & Marion Koops

April 2021



BIRTHDAYS

April 9th—Chloe Zimmerling

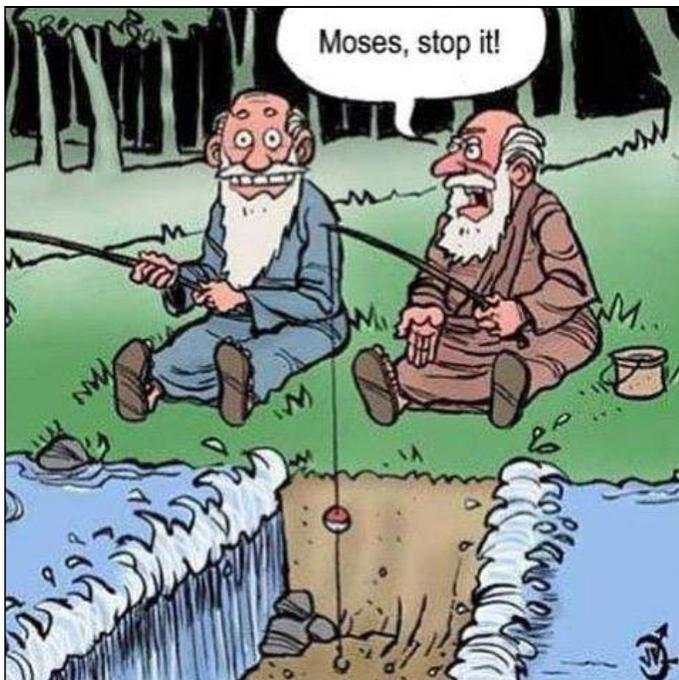
April 22nd—Rory Brohart

April 28th — Lois Rosien

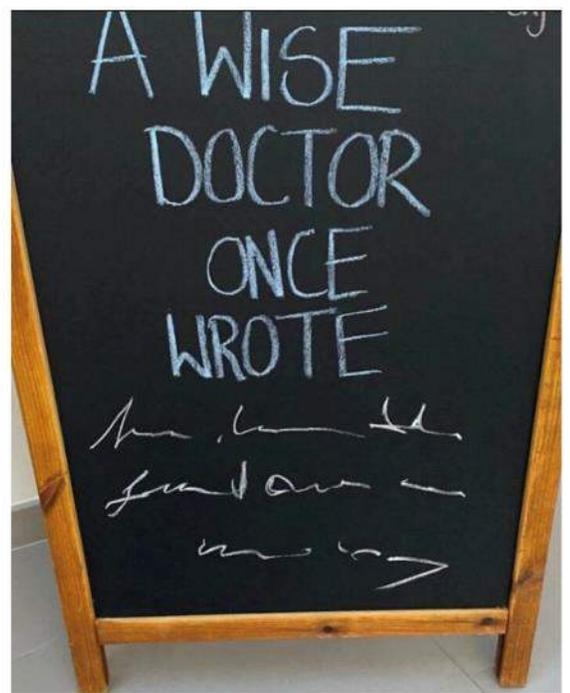
ANNIVERSARIES

April 15th—Paul & Paula Mainprize

April 22nd — Mark & Diane Boese



Doctors Be Like





A perfect spiritual setting, year round



Monthly Walk at Galilee

Around the grounds of Galilee and surrounding area 1st Friday of each month 2021. AWARENESS OF: The beauty and rich history of Galilee; The numerous ways, and the many years Galilee...



Ron Rolheiser Retreat - April 16-18, 2021

April 16-18, 2021 Facilitator: Ronald Rolheiser, is a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is President Emeritus of the Oblate School of Theology...



Passion & Action: Integrating the Inner Life with Justice - April 30 - May 2, 2021

April 30 - May 2, 2021 Perhaps we are witnessing the beginning of a new chapter of social and cultural change. Some of this is gaining momentum through grassroot movements...

For more information visit: <https://www.galileecentre.com/>





UNPLUG Youth Program

Calling all Kids, Grandkids and Friends!

St. John's new youth program called "Unplug and Connect with Nature" (or UNPLUG for short) is getting ready to get started.

This is intended to be a fun, interesting, completely outdoor experience for youth 6 to 17 who would meet approximately every 2 weeks. The program will run in all but the most extreme weather such as thunderstorms. The cost per session is a modest \$5 per attendee.

If COVID restrictions will allow, our planned start date will be Sunday May 9 for the older youth and Sunday May 16th for the younger children. Specific age ranges will be determined once we have an idea of who will regularly attend.

Please let us know **by Friday, April 23rd** of any children who are interested in regularly attending the program – send an email entitled UNPLUG interest with the following information to

stjohnscommunications@gmail.com

Name(s) and date(s) of birth: _____

Parent name & contact information (email & phone): _____

Here are the program activities which have been confirmed (May to September). If not specified, the same activities will be run for both age groups.

1. **Create a garden** at St. John's (build raised beds, add good soil). Plant vegetables for Food Bank.
2. **Animal husbandry** (see the baby chicks & baby ducks). Site: Zimmerling Farm
3. (a) Older Age Group: Trip to **Camp Lutherlyn** to canoe and explore Golden Lake (turtles, dragon flies, fish etc) and (b) Younger Age Group: "Stream ecology" on a local riverbank.
4. (a) Older Age Group: Observe the **Night sky** and (b) Younger Age Group: Observe the **Day sky**: clouds, colours, atmospheric conditions. Both will be at Claybank Park.
5. **Harvest food** from the garden at St. John's when ready and deliver to Food Bank.
6. **Nature hike & treasure hunt** or some other activity, tentatively at Morris Island.

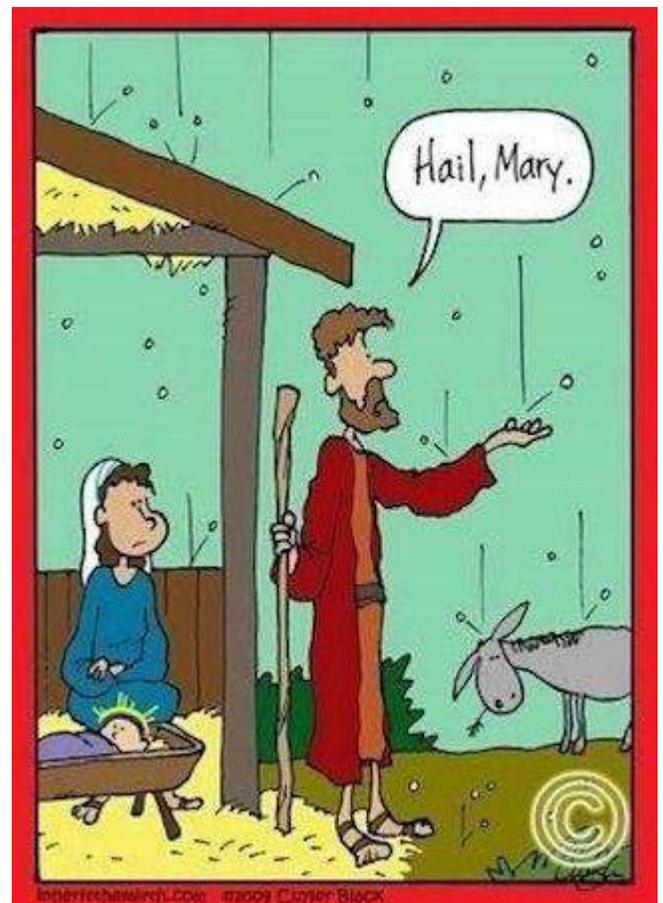
Other exciting ideas are being explored and interesting "expert" leaders are being recruited.

Any ideas or leads you have – please send to stjohnscommunications@gmail.com

UNPLUG Planning Team: Alison, Enid, Ryan, Pastor Norine, Jeff, Andy and Cory

CHURCH CLEANING

We have been depending on volunteer cleaning for a couple of years now, and this burden has been shouldered primarily by Barb and Gerald Formuziewich. The congregation owes Barb and Gerald a huge thank you for their efforts! It is now time to give these guys a break and look for a set of volunteers who can help out with the cleaning. The tasks include vacuuming, moping floors, dusting etc. If you can help out in any way, please contact Dave Burkett at: dave.burkett@gmail.com or 613 618-5729.



WONDER HOW MANY TIMES SOMEONE KNOCKED BEFORE THE SIGN WAS MADE

Watching the YouTube Videos of pre-recorded or live-streamed services.

Due to copyright issues, it has become necessary to mark our videos as “UNLISTED” in YouTube. For most people who are happy accessing the video by clicking on the link in the email using a tablet or laptop, this does not change anything.



However, a few of us like to show the video on a larger screen (TV). With smart TV's it used to be possible to browse the Church's YouTube channel to get a list of all the videos and then simply highlight the one desired and poof—the video is there in high definition large screen format. The move to Unlisted, has made that not so easy. However, there are other ways to accomplish this:

1. Regardless of the type of TV (as long as it has a spare HDMI port), you can display the video on your TV. You would need a laptop and an HDMI cable (\$25 depending on length) to connect the laptop to the TV. Set the TV source to the HDMI port that you connected the laptop to and you can display the laptop screen on the TV. Specialty cables are available for some tablet devices to accomplish the same thing.

2. For those more tech-savvy, investing in a cast device like Google's Chromecast (\$39.00) which plugs into a HDMI port on the TV. With this device, it is possible to bring up the email on your phone or tablet, and click on the link. The video will now have a Cast ICON which you can click to transfer the playing of the video to the TV—it will even turn on most TV's. The cast Icon looks like:



3. If you use an Apple device (phone or laptop), you can purchase an Apple TV device (\$200). It is similar to the Chromecast device), and then use Apple AirPlay to display the video.

4. On a smart TV you could always go to YouTube and using the on-screen keyboard type in the link. Given that the link looks something like: <https://youtu.be/B3idQKK to0> this can be difficult, so many of us looked for alternate ways.

For some of us, viewing the service on a larger screen greatly enhances the experience. I would be willing to assist anyone who wishes to explore options in how to do this.

Dave Burkett dave.burkett@mail.com 613 618-5729

Lenten Solar Light Project Update

You can brighten someone’s day often with a cheery hello, but it takes something a little more solid to brighten up someone’s night. Our Lenten Solar Light Project is going to provide 5 (Five) solar lights to Canadian Lutheran World Relief! These five lights will without question make the lives of people better and safer. No more fretting about where your foot falls as you walk ahead. No more worry about what lurks in a dark corner, The relief of being able to grab a few moments of normality in a horrible whirlwind of constant dread and trepidation. All thanks to the power of the sun, a bit of robust technology developed by smart people, and the generosity and kindness of a few people.



Thanks to all who prayed for this endeavour and thanks to all who were in a position to assist.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2021

DATE	READING	ALTAR	COUNTERS
April 11 th	Andy Kalnins	Beryl & Keith	Mel and Marion
April 18 th	Maureen Rueckwald	Beryl & Keith	Mel and Marion
April 25 th	Debbie Kargus	Beryl & Keith	Mel and Marion