



# The Mustard Seed

April 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
Pastor Norine	623-4562

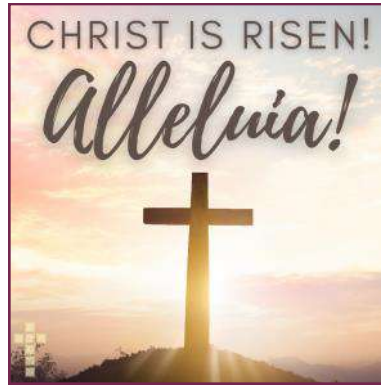
See us on facebook:

*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 the Pastor



***Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
Christ is risen indeed!***

We say these words as we celebrate Easter!

The name "Easter" was the name of the goddess of dawn whose spring festival was celebrated near the Jewish commemoration of Passover – another feast associated with spring. Did you know that the Christian celebration of Christ's resurrection always falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21, the spring equinox?!

We watch for signs of spring, as snow melts, and robins appear. Birds return to feeders and children are out on their bicycles, and skateboards. We mark Easter Sunday with signs of resurrection. The day is filled with Easter eggs, families and friends gathering, and maybe some chocolate!

There is more to this day! 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.

I pray that you experience God's blessings and a Happy Easter Season.

Pastor Norine

## **April 2024 Calendar**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Fridays: Muslim Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge</li> <li>• April 1—9: Ramadan: Prayers each evening at Sunset in the Hall</li> <li>• April 13<sup>th</sup> — Eid Celebration — Community Potluck</li> </ul>
Wednesday April 10, 17 & 24	6:00-7:00p.m. Dance in the Hall
<b>Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word, (Lay led)</b>
Monday April 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>UNPLUG:</b> Total Solar Eclipse (trip to Kingston or see it at St. John's)
<b>Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion</b></li> <li>• Coffee Hour follows service</li> </ul>
Wednesday April 17th	7:00pm — Church Council Meets
Saturday April 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00a.m. — Men's Breakfast at Jim's
<b>Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10:30 Worship Service of the Word, (Lay led)</b>
<b>Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word</b>



## *Minutes of March 17, 2024 Council Meeting*

### *Attendance:*

Andy Kalnins	Pr. Norine	Fred Steinke
Enid Blackwell	Debbie Witt	Mellissa Watt
	Karen Greening	

### **COUNCIL MEETING AFTER THE AGM**

Council met briefly in the Board Room where Pr. Norine asked each member if they accept the positions as per: Andy Kalnins (Chairperson), Enid Blackwell (Finance & Co-Chair), Debbie Witt (Secretary), Fred Steinke (Property), Mellissa Watt (Youth), Karen Greening (may take on Co-Chair in time). All accepted.

**Finance:** Enid distributed the Jan./Feb Profit and Loss Comparison.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 16 @ 1:00.

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:**

**From our Congregation:** Ed, Jacqueline, Paul, June, Vicki, Samantha, P+ Norine, Joyce Headrick & Ryan Z.

**Friends:** Tere, children Briar and Alivia, Lynne Z., Claude & Roy.

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



## *April 2024*



### ***BIRTHDAYS***

*April 9<sup>th</sup>—Chloe Zimmerling*

*April 22<sup>nd</sup>—Rory Brohart*

### ***ANNIVERSARIES***

*April 15<sup>th</sup>—Paul & Paula Mainprize*

*April 22<sup>nd</sup>—Mark & Diane Boese*



## Seeking a Common Word

Christian-Muslim dialogue  
Webinar to inform and inspire

Online via Zoom

**April 16, 2024, 2:00-3:30pm EST**

Interested in initiating or continuing Christian-Muslim dialogue in your community? On April 16 at 2 p.m., join us for a webinar that will inspire you to strive for a deeper understanding of your neighbours and will inform you about the resources that are available to support local conversations and collaborations.

In our time of growing division, distrust and conflict, understanding our neighbours, particularly those of other faiths, is vital. And in our Canadian context, amid a rise in Islamophobia and hate-motivated crimes against Muslims, connections and conversations between Christians and Muslims have never been more important.

In 2020, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada made a joint commitment to encourage their members to reach out in a spirit of dialogue and friendship with their Muslim neighbours by signing and endorsing the [\*A Common Word Between Us and You\*](#) initiative. The initiative's website offers a toolkit for Christian-Muslim engagement in the Canadian context and other resources.

In the webinar on April 16, we will learn about the origins of the *A Common Word* initiative, explore local engagement tools and resources, hear stories from people who have used them in their context and engage in discussion. Register today:

<https://acommonword.ca/webinar/>



## Donation Reminders

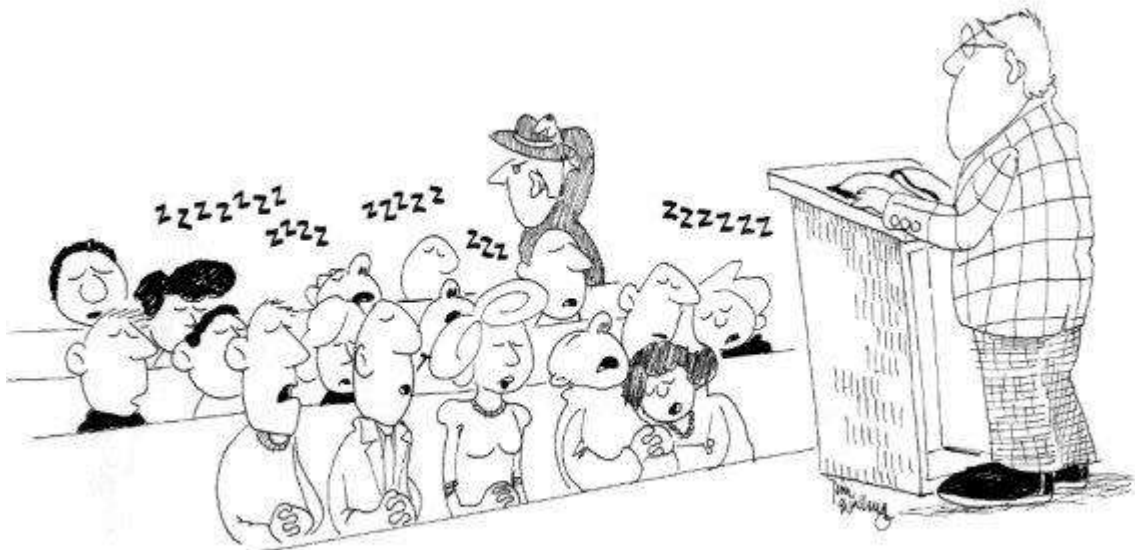
Thank you to members for passing our 2024 budget on March 17 at our Annual Meeting! In our budget, 'ordinary income' to cover our local operating costs and our benevolence to Eastern Synod is projected at \$95,600, with some \$91,000 of that potentially coming from donations to 'Commitments' (called 'Current' on our envelopes). Outreach efforts come under an area called 'other income', totally separate from our regular budget for ordinary income and operating costs.

So, just a couple of reminders:

1. When you donate to Commitments, you are already covering Benevolence. No need to add another line for Benevolence, just add that amount into your Commitments line.
2. Outreach focused efforts for 2024 are not identified as yet. While you can still donate to Food Bank and TAP, and those donations will definitely be forwarded on, you may wish to focus on Commitments for now, and hold for more news on our Outreach plans. In the future, we definitely will be encouraging congregational Outreach contributions, both monetary support and voluntary time, to local and wider needs.

For any questions on this, you are welcome to contact me. Thank you!

Enid  
613 623-7017



*Pastor Doug could usually tell when he began to lose his flock.*

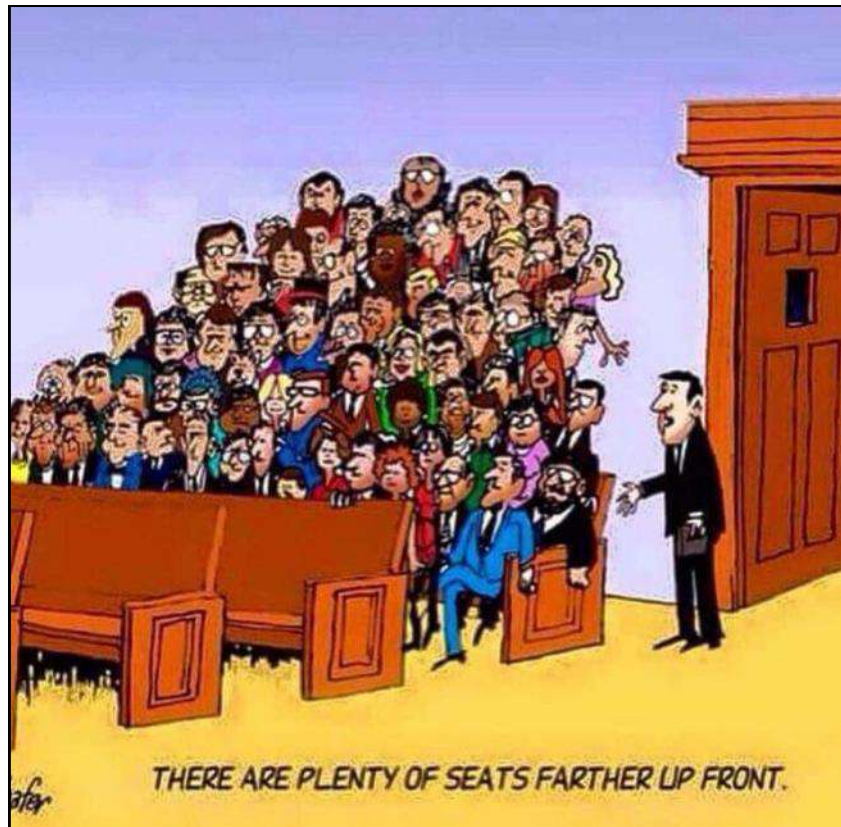
# THANK YOU !

## Thank you for Easter Flower donations:

- Gwen Steinke and family in memory of Ed
- Cheryl Supple in memory of parents, Gerald and Gladys Buder



Beryl Richardson and Debbie Witt, Pastoral Care volunteers, with Easter 'baskets' prepared and delivered to 11 households. Goodies included handmade Easter cards from 7 year old Phoenix Barnhart and many Eternity for Today devotional booklets for the spring season.





## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### April 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREET-ERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Tonkin	Barbara & Gerald	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob		
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Vicki Weichenthal	Barbara & Gerald	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	TBC	
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mark Boese	Barbara & Gerald	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob		
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Greening	Barbara & Gerald	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob		

An old preacher was dying. He sent a message for his banker and his lawyer, both church members, to come to his home.

When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom. As they entered the room, the preacher held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The preacher grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled, and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything.

Both the banker and lawyer were touched and flattered that the preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled; the preacher had never given them any indication that he particularly liked either of them. They both remembered his many long, uncomfortable sermons about greed, covetousness, and avaricious behaviour that made them squirm in their seats.

Finally, the banker said, "Preacher, why did you ask us to come?"

The old preacher mustered up his strength and then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go."



### 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.