



The Mustard Seed

December 2022

Newsletter

of

St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church

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

Church Council

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Pastor Norine	623-4562
Randy Zimmerling (Treas)	899-7892

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

Pastor's Message

We are in the first week of Advent as I write this note. Advent is derived from the Latin word "adventus" meaning to arrive.

The whole idea of Advent is that it is a part of the lead up to Christmas. The patient waiting - the "be still and know that I am God" part. The preparation and even the anticipation is lost in our culture's approach to the Christmas season. It can make you feel like a person driving a car in the wrong lane on the 417 - going against all the other "people traffic."

Has Christmas become a purely secular festival? Has it become "cultural Christianity"? - *which is at its worst during the Christmas season?* Is that part of "our wilderness" today as people of faith?

On Advent II Sunday we read of John the Baptist coming out of the wilderness, as an Old Testament prophet would and he is crying out like Isaiah **to prepare the way for the Lord** - proclaiming the coming of Christ. John's call comes at the moment just before Jesus ministry is about to start. John asks us to change - to repent. Repent - the word means to change one's mind - for the better. To turn around - **for a call to action** not just reflection, making a new beginning.

John the Baptist calls us to inspect our lives and then to take action.

There are many calls for action these days. The climate crisis, homelessness, children living in poverty around the world, advocating for our medical professionals and the whole medical system, and the ever present issue of hunger.

Maybe that means turning around and getting back to the meaning of our Christmas celebrations and upholding the things we value most. . . . spending time with family and friends.

Continued over --->

Pastor's message continued:

Maybe that means making things less complicated and stressful at Christmas time.

Maybe that means getting back to the meaning of Christmas giving – giving in love in response to God's gifts and love to us.

Whatever it means for you, we gather under the safeguarding of the Holy Spirit as we continue on our Advent journey of waiting and repenting.

A star will shine. Angels are busy. Mary is pregnant. Joseph is packing. Advent is here! May God bless us with hope and wonder of children as we await the Christ child.

P+Norine

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our congregation: Bob W., Darlene Z., Vicki, Jeff Obst, Ed & Rosemary, Jacqueline, Kenny T.

Friends of the Parish: Tere, Kathleen, children -Briar & Alivia, Ed, George W., Lynne Z., Claude, Wayne Stolz, Earl, Bill, Pierre, twin baby girls Naveah & Mave.

We continue to pray for the people of the Ukraine as winter approaches.

Bless you for believing in the power of prayers. If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.

December 2022



BIRTHDAYS

December 4th—Kathy Tonkin

December 11th—Gerald Formuziewich

December 25th—Jacob Elliott

ANNIVERSARIES

December 7th—Stan and Judith Johnstone

December 30th—Dave and Alison Burkett

December 2022 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Thursdays 10:00a.m.	Prayer Team meets in the Pastor's office every Thursday morning.
Sunday Dec 4th	10:30a.m. ADVENT II—Family Worship Service of Word and Prayer.
Sunday Dec 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m. ADVENT III Worship Service with Holy Communion. • 2:00p.m. at Trinity St. Andrews United Church in Renfrew—A Blue Christmas Service with St. James.
Thursday Dec 15 th	10:00a.m. Area Pastors meet in Eganville
Sunday Dec 18th	10:30a.m.—ADVENT IV Worship Service of Word and Prayer.
Monday Dec 19th	Church Council meets, time TBC
Saturday Dec 24th	6:00pm—Christmas Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion, with children participating.
Sunday Jan 1st	10:30 a.m. NEW YEARS DAY ~ Worship Service of Word & Prayer.



Minutes of the November 28th, 2022 Council Meeting

	Enid Blackwell	Pr. Norine	David Burkett
Attendance:	Debbie Witt	Randy Zimmerling	Andy Kalnins
	Fred Steinke	Rachel Roesner (Regrets)	

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Pastor opened with a devotion and prayer.

- 1. Previous Minutes:** Debbie stated correction to published minutes of Oct. 26 to show Alison and Rachel as regrets and Enid (Zoom). Motion that minutes now be approved. Andy moved, Dave seconded, **CARRIED**.
- 2. Treasurer and Bookkeeper:** Alison Burkett resigned as Treasurer on November 1. Randy Zimmerling, who agreed to stand to be interim Treasurer, was nominated from membership by Debbie, and elected by acclamation on November 10 through an email process. Alison was appointed as Bookkeeper on November 16, Motion by Andy, seconded by Debbie, e-vote. **CARRIED** unanimously.
- 3. Finance:** Randy indicated no major changes end of October from end of September. Income down 8.7K from our 67.4K budget due to decrease investment value, commitment donation; overall expenses down 2.9K from budget. Nov. bazaar to-date \$2,594 may increase slightly.
- 4.** Balance sheet shows good shape for small organization with considerable outlay (e.g. flooring) Randy left meeting.
- 5. Children and Youth:** No UNPLUG Dec., Jan. weather dependent. No parade float. Sunday School to possibly begin in new year, once a month. In person Christmas pageant planned.
- 6. Pastor's report:** Pastoral duties are consistent with home and phone connections; also palliative care visit, Bazaar, men's breakfast, several meetings and education time. Pastor participating in Blue Christmas service Dec. 11 in Renfrew. Looking to invite the Bishop here for Fall 2023. Marion Leeck sending cards to church members as needed. Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 p.m., attending children to participate in the pageant if they wish to.
- 7. COVID Protocols:** Synod issued letter suggesting masks be worn during services as a result of Public Health recommendations due to rise in RSV, flu and COVID cases. Recommending a moratorium on "social" for the months of Dec. and Jan. Council decided no social for Dec. then assess further. Also concerns of ice on sidewalks and steps. New name for this committee to be *Health and Safety Committee*.
- 8. Outreach:** In 2022 did not do any targeted fundraising projects but \$1,875 coming from commitments. \$1,100 or so for chickens. Acknowledge the policy had merits, but felt that the more traditional approach better served the church. Putting forward that Outreach be removed as a line item and the financial contribution will be whatever it ends up being for 2023. Two suggested planned events 1) fundraiser meal for Hospice 2) 2023 Christmas Appeal. Possible other events. Change to Outreach fundraising Moved by Fred, seconded by Debbie **CARRIED**
- 9. Communications:** Steady Facebook presence. Deliveries of newsletters etc. keep connection with some. Pastoral Care team met & meets this week. Advent sticker calendars being delivered to families with children. Marion Koops & family wish no formal kitchen dedication; memorial contribution to be noted in newsletter. A note from Council will be published in newsletter regarding Visioning and Planning of the church. Nominations committee, as needed, Pastor and Chair. Friends of parish appeal letter for on-line viewers to be put up on internet.
- 10. Operations matters:** NO REPORT
- 11. Property:** Winter maintenance schedule has been done like storm window installation, A/C, lawn tractor storage, snowblower readiness, furnace filters. Schedule of volunteers for snow removal to be done. Daily check coverage while Gerald away. Furnace repair to be done. Window needs noted.
- 12. Technology:** NO REPORT
- 13. Other Business:** Planning Cycle (through January) Closing – Round Table and Prayer Next meeting: Dec 19 (time to be confirmed).

Photo Corner

(thanks to Lorne R. and Enid)

85th birthdays: Keith's belated, with Beryl & P+ Norine. And greetings went to Joyce Headrick, on her 85th.



Cory, Dave, Pastor, Jeff and Gerald cutting ribbon at the basement floor opening.



Phoenix enjoying some cake at coffee hour.



A candle has been lit today to honour someone who has passed away and continues to remain close in our hearts.

All Saints Day Candles.

Photo Corner

(thanks to Lorne R. and Enid)



Jeff getting ready for the White Lake Christmas parade.



Classical guitarist, Phillip Calendaria plays for us at the November 20th ser-



Vicki Weichenthal is presented with the Bazaar Raffle prize of a Floral Tapestry by Dave Burkett.



NOTICES

UPDATE: VISIONING AND PLANNING OUR FUTURE

Council members and Pastor Norine in consultation with others hope to bring forward options for St. John's future. We expect options will be presented before or at the Annual Meeting in February or March.

TREASURER AND BOOKKEEPER UPDATES

Following the resignation of Alison Burkett as Treasurer on November 1, Randy Zimmerling was approached and he agreed to be nominated as Treasurer, on an interim basis. Council then elected him by acclamation out of congregational membership to the role of Treasurer on November 10. Subsequently, Alison Burkett agreed to be Bookkeeper, and was appointed by council through a vote, unanimously supported, on November 16. Alison was previously covering both Bookkeeping and Treasurer responsibilities, and we thank her for past service in both, and for her willingness to continue bookkeeping as one of the volunteer roles she yet retains. Our thanks to Randy for agreeing to serve as Treasurer, a position he has held in the past.

THANK YOU FROM COUNCIL!

MEMORIAM THANK YOU

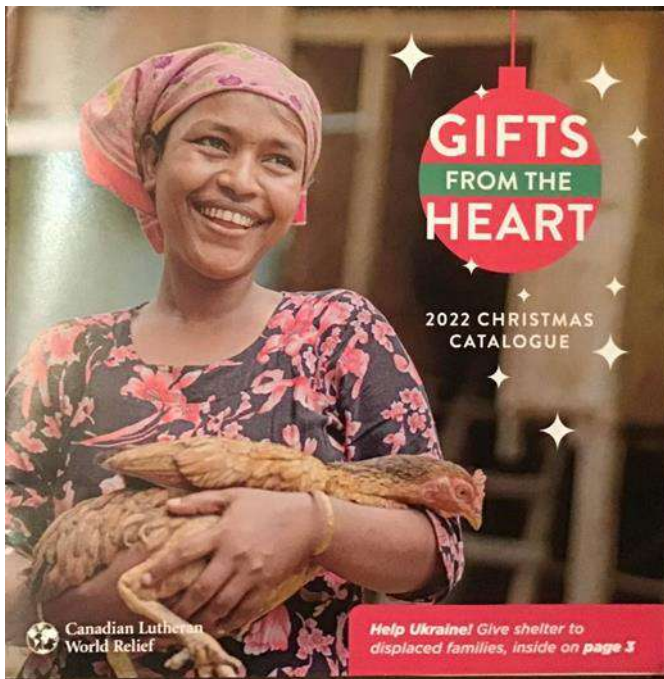
Marion Koops and family decided to use the memoriam funds received in memory of Bill to cover the cost of the new floor in our kitchen. Thank you very much!

BAZAAR GANG

The gang of four, Maureen Rueckwald, Paula Mainprize, Cathy Zimmerling and P+ Norine cleaned up and packed up remaining bazaar items. With a little help from their friends, most items were then sent on to the Fountain, for use in the community. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS AMONG US

Many thanks to Beryl and Keith Richardson and Jo Anne and Lorne Bretzlaff for decorating our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. And thanks also to Gerald and Barbara Formuziewich for decorating kitchen and downstairs tables for recent gatherings there.



Giving with Heart

If you are looking for a meaningful gift for a family member or friend, pick up one of the Gifts From the Heart booklets on the narthex table. Through this Canadian Lutheran World Relief program, you can choose to fund a flock of chickens, a mobile health clinic, women in business support, shelter for refugees, garden tools and more . . . in honour of your loved ones. You can receive a card to tell them about the special gift.



Emmanuel

You come in silence
to my world of crooked noisy places,
places rough with agendas
that leave me bruised,
spirit light low,
a bare glowing ember.

Emmanuel

I will give you quiet moments,
bits of silence stolen in the clamor
of the streets.

Let my silence straighten
a way for you
to smooth my rough spots,
to heal my bruised spirit,
to fan my faith's faint flame,
to prepare in me a vessel
for your incarnation.

by Lisa Wells Isenhower from *Alive Now!*
Nov/Dec. 1990

I'm Still Your Mom

I'm still your mom...when you no longer listen or care what I say. I'm still your mom... when you decide I'm old fashioned and want to go your own way. I'm still your mom... when you talk back, complain, and argue. I'm still your mom...when you figure you know more than I do. I'm still your mom... when you move away and take a piece of my heart with you. I'm still your mom...and I will love you still as much as the first day I held you in my arms. I'm still your mom... and I will pray for you and make sure your wings are strong enough to soar. I'm still your mom...I'll want what's best and will sacrifice my plans for yours. I'm still your mom...I'll always have room for you and a hug to welcome you. I'm still your mom... and until my last breath, I'll keep carrying your love with me. I thank God every day for the privilege and joy it's been to be called – your Mom.

A professor gave a balloon to every student, who had to inflate it, write their name on it and throw it in the hallway.

The professor then mixed all the balloons. The students were given 5 minutes to find their own balloon.

Despite a hectic search, no one found their balloon.

At that point the professor told the students to take the first balloon that they found and hand it to the person whose name was written on it. Within 5 minutes everyone had their own balloon.

The professor said to the students:

"These balloons are like happiness. We will never find it if everyone is looking for their own. But if we care about other people's happiness... we'll find ours too."



HUMOUR

Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When little Johnny received his plate, he started eating straight away.

"Jonny, wait until we've said our prayer," his mother reminded him.

"I don't have to." - the little boy replied.

"Of course you do." - his mother insisted. "We say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Johnny explained, "but this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

Editor's note: I received this from Lorne R. when I requested a photo of the basement opening.



Is this crew "The Apple Dumpling Gang"??

The ringleader appears to be the one masked in middle, you can tell by her shifty eyes! Exercise extreme caution when approaching anyone of these suspects.

DO NOT CROSS THE LINE !



UNPLUG Youth Program

We held one UNPLUG event in November.

Nov 20: "Wild Birds". The weather for our unplugged event proved to be a bit chillier than expected so we set up in a barn at the Zimmerling Family Farm. Six (6) kids had a great time examining in detail a variety of sample bird feet, beaks, and wings. There was also an opportunity to dissect (during the event or at home) sterilized owl "fur balls" containing undigested fur and bones that, as we learned, owls cannot digest.

Our very knowledgeable teacher Patty, from the "Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center", instructed everyone on how to properly focus binoculars for optimal bird watching. Everyone then had an opportunity to use their newly found binocular skills to do their best to identify different types of bird pictures posted strategically in the yard. A free online tool called Merlin was introduced to the kids to help them easily identify the various bird species they saw.

This was a very informative and enjoyable afternoon for everyone. Even the big kids learned something new about birds. Host: Jeff Kargus



Upcoming UN-PLUG Plans

UNPLUG will be on hold until the new year for a couple of reasons. First,

"baby, its cold outside" – for our last event the kids were cold even with the shelter of the barn and warm clothes on. Second, several of the organizers have other December and January time commitments.



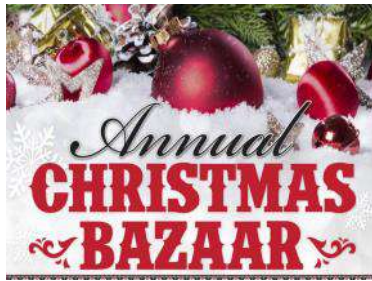


HOUSE BLESSINGS

Maybe you didn't realize this, but we Lutherans have an order of service for house blessings!!! If you have recently moved and would like to do this, please contact Pastor Norine.

When I lost the fingers on my right hand in a freak accident, I asked the doctor if I would still be able to write with it. He said, "Probably, but I wouldn't count on it" 😂

Christmas Bazaar 2022



Another successful Christmas Bazaar was held at the church on Saturday, November 12th raising to date \$2,546!

Our newly renovated basement was packed full of amazing items for sale including kitchenware, Christmas decorations, house décor, some furniture, and the most delicious homemade baked goods that filled three long tables. Upstairs, an assortment of children's clothing and toys, craft supplies, hand knitted articles, linens, outdoor items, jewellery, books, and puzzles were available to shoppers.

A lovely Christmas themed café was held in the kitchen area where soups, chilli, fresh buns, and muffins were available for purchase. Some shoppers took a break and ate at the café while others bought take out to enjoy at home.

A Festive Holiday gift basket and wall hanging were raffled as well. Karen DeLuca won the gift basket and Vicki Weichenthal won the wall hanging. The winners were thrilled with their prizes.

The success of the bazaar was due to the 28 faithful and dedicated volunteers who generously donated their time and talents to baking, knitting, creating signs, decorating the café area, donating raffle items, working the day of the bazaar plus setting up and packing up the leftover items.

Remaining items from the bazaar were donated to the NeighbourLink Fountain, here in town, to support other members in our community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Jeff and Debbie Kargus have welcomed a new member to their family, as son, **Ryan Kargus & Shannon Power** were married at Temples Sugar Bush, Sat. Nov. 26. May God bless the newly married couple.



We place the hat of **"Master Gardener"** on **Jeff Kargus**, as he has supervised us into another great harvest of carrots and beets for the Arnprior foodbank. Well done everyone involved!



Congratulations to **Rhonda McTeer** as she welcomes her first grandchildren - twin girls, **Naveah & Mave**.

Daughter, **Jessica** and babies live in Campbell's Bay and are doing well now.

The Eganville
Community Choir 2022

presents

Joy to the World

at Grace Lutheran Church
14 Bonnechere St. W., Eganville

Sunday, December 18th at 2 pm

free will donation

More information:
heatherstjacques@hotmail.com

An Advent
Prayer For A
World In Need



In this Advent of war and famine, we light the candle of Hope and pray for all of those facing conflict, despair, displacement and loneliness. May they find comfort and joy.

In this Advent of division, we light the candle of Love and pray that we may draw together in unity and mission, remembering that we are all together in service.

In this Advent of economic hardship, we light the candle of Joy and give thanks for the comfort that comes from knowing Christ, even when we are worn out and weary.

In this Advent of uncertainty, we light the candle of Peace and pray for your Spirit to calm our anxious hearts, and those of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Lord, as we expectantly long for the coming of the Messiah may we open our hearts with compassion and care and may our prayers and deeds serve to heal a broken world.



**"I'm not sure what religion my family is.
It's the one that forbids running with scissors.
And eating before dinner is the worst sin."**

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2022



DATE	READING	ALTAR	USHERS	COUNTERS	Social
Dec 4th	Mark Boese	Beryl & Keith	Lorne & Maureen	Lorne & Maureen	No Socials in December
Dec 11th	Maureen Rueckwald	Beryl & Keith	Lorne & Maureen	Lorne & Maureen	
Dec 18th	Shaundra Craig & Kaleigh or substitute	Beryl & Keith	Lorne & Maureen	Lorne & Maureen	
Dec 24th	Mark Boese	Beryl & Keith	Beryl & Keith	Andy & Enid	
Jan 1st	Cathy Zimmerling	Barb & Gerald	Greg, Fred, Kevin Steinke	Elmer & Marion	

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.

Thank you, P+Norine