



The Mustard Seed

December 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 (Chair)	623-7017
Debbie Witt	622-1500
Dave Burkett (Sec'y)	618-5729
Cory Weckwerth	793-3701
Andy Kalnins (Vice)	863-0202
Alison Burkett (Treasurer)	618-5716
Rachel Roesner	804-3392

See us on facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior

On the web: stjohnsarnprior.com



Pastor's Message



As we turn the calendar pages to December, we lean into the Advent season knowing that Christmas is just ahead of us. Dates on the calendar are consumed by family and friends who wish to - carefully - gather together to celebrate with each other. I quote Kenn Ward (*editor of Canada Lutheran*) as he states, "It is also clear that people do need people, face to face, talking, and touching and just sitting quietly together."¹

St. Johns and St. James Lutheran people extend a sincere invitation for you to join us for worship and other activities. Both churches are involved in local outreach activities this month. Dates and times are listed on our calendars.

That word- lean- reminded me of an old hymn that is rarely heard anymore, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms. It is in leaning into our faith and spirituality that carries us through day by day, anticipating God's continued faithfulness to us.

As you prepare your hearts and your homes for the coming of the Christ child, may God bless you and yours and may you be a blessing to others during this Christmas season.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine

1 October/November 2021 Canada Lutheran Vol 36 No 7 p.5

"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

December Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT
Sunday Dec 5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30am ADVENT II—Worship Service with Holy Communion • 1:00pm UNPLUG Kids activity—making bird feeders at the church (see ad elsewhere in this newsletter)
Thursday Dec 9 th	1:00pm—Ottawa Valley Pastors meet at Grace, Eganville
Sunday Dec 12th	10:30a.m. ADVENT III—Worship Service of Word and Prayer
Thursday Dec 16 th	8:00-9:00pm Book Group discussion by zoom on Chapter 1 “DIRT” from the book Grounded by Diana Butler Bass (see ad elsewhere in this newsletter)
Sunday Dec 19th	10:30am—ADVENT IV—Worship service with Holy Communion. Special live music from guest Anda Sprudz.
Monday Dec 20 th	1:00pm—Church Council meets via Zoom
Tuesday Dec 21st	A pre-recorded Blue Christmas Service by is available by internet link (see ad elsewhere in this newsletter)
Friday Dec 24th	7:00pm Christmas Eve Service - Guest organist Lynne Zander. Children’s pageant via video. Pre-registration to attend the service is required.
Sunday Dec 26th	No in-person Worship. Pre-recorded service will be available via YouTube.
Sunday Jan 2nd	10:30am Worship service with Holy Communion



Council Meeting

November 15th, 2021

Attendance (ZOOM)

Enid Blackwell	David Burkett	Pr. Norine
Alison Burkett	Andy Kalnins	Debbie Witt
Cory Weckwerth	Rachel Roesner	

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Enid led a round table talking about any significant rocks in our lives. Pastor opened with a devotion.

- 1. Previous Minutes:** Andy moved that the Oct 18th, 2021, minutes be approved with as distributed, Cory seconded, CARRIED. Debbie moved and Cory seconded the approval of the minutes of the October 7th, 2021, special meeting on the Constitution, Cory seconded. CARRIED
- 2. Finance:** The deficit to the end of October is \$7,923 about what was expected. Alison is optimistic that we could come close to breaking even by year end. Recommended that pastor prepare a letter on financial position and include a Christmas envelope with the letter. Alison moved; Cory seconded that the financial report on the 2021 Net Income vs budget be accepted: CARRIED.
- 3. 2022 Budget.**
Alison led the council through assumptions in developing the budget and various discussion points. We agreed on roles of Council members in preparing line items. Work on the budget will continue at the December Council meeting. Rachel expressed fundraising interest. Jeff Kargus present to address Christmas chickens for Food Bank with tree as a visual. Jeff left meeting. Alison left meeting.
- 4. Singing:** Andy checked with local health regarding singing. Andy moved that we allow singing with masks on effective Advent 1, until further notice – pastor able to make the final decision.
- 5. Pastor's report** Pastor presented her activity report. Blue Christmas pre-recorded with 2 United clergy, for 6 congregations. Pastor on vacation December 26 through January 1.
- 6. Operations resource:** Subsequent to constitution development and other needs, Debbie beginning work on detailed roles/functions resource.
- 7. Communications** – some increase. Newsletter deadline Nov 24th. Include link to council meeting to be included in November newsletter.
- 8. Tech and Property:** Temporary ambient Mic installed – trying to pick up bells and live music better. Focus issue with the camera being investigated. Organ tuning scheduled for Nov 30th. Entrance way walls installed – able to be opened easily. Winterizing of barrels and A/C and Storms scheduled for next week.
- 9. Visioning Retreat** – Scheduled a meeting to plan out the retreat (Nov 29th at 11:00).
- 10. Constitution:** Wendell confirmed receipt. Being discussed this week at Synod. (Subsequent to council meeting we were notified of acceptance of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Other Business:

- E-Mail vote policy—deferred.
- **NEXT MEETING: Dec 20th, 2021** — Adjournment: 3:00pm

NEW CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Thank you to all for your presence in person and by zoom on Sunday, November 14 when we, as a congregation, approved a new constitution, incorporating two changes to the draft version distributed to members in early October. The changes were made upon the advice of the Synod, for purposes of clarity to the document, and do not change ongoing practices. 29 members voting unanimously in favour of submitting this document to Synod for approval.

We got word on November 24 that Eastern Synod Council approved our C and BL (in full) at their meeting of the previous week. Shortly, we will receive formal notice and complete this process. Thank you all for support and participation.

Please know that you can contact any council member should you have any questions now or later about any content in the document. We will be pleased to talk with you.

PRAYER LIST



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



From our congregation: Ed & Rosemary, Linda & family, Diane B., Vicki, Briar, Joy and Lois.

Friends of the Parish: Mary K., Leslie, Tere, Lorraine, Lucille, Alivia, Kathleen, Iona B., Ed.

Please continue to pray for the people of British Columbia who are affected by mudslides, landslides, and flooding. Bless you for believing in the power of prayers. If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.



Newsletter – Christmas Bazaar 2021 – Results

Wow! It was great to be back together working on an important fundraiser for St. John's – or as Pastor says, a Fun(d) Raiser with emphasis on the fun. Twenty-one people baked, preserved, or made soup for the Bazaar. This food was for sale online with \$675 (or 60%) sold before our doors opened. The remaining 40% of the food was snapped up quickly on Saturday, November 13.



For our raffle this year, we had a lovely quilt donated by Barb Formuziewich as well as a gorgeous gift basket created by Maureen Rueckwald with donations from several others. We sold 62 tickets on the gift basket and 40 tickets on the quilt. The winner of the quilt was Brenda Schiel; the winner of the gift basket was Bonnie Belda.

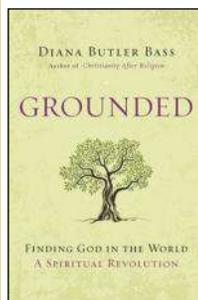


We have raised just over **\$2,600** so far on the Bazaar – almost 3 times what we raised in 2020. An auctioneer has agreed to take our furniture and other items to a December 2nd auction; with that we're hoping for \$3,000, which is close to the \$3,700 we raised in 2018 and 2019 with a Yard Sale, the Bazaar and in 2019 a Spaghetti Supper. Wow!

All remaining Bazaar items have or will be taken to the Opp Shop or the Fountain.

Thanks to a fabulous team who planned the Bazaar, organized and priced items ahead of time, created marketing materials and our online "store" and volunteered the day of the Bazaar:

Maureen, Barb, Debbie W, Debbie K, Jo Anne, Alison, Andy, Dave, Gerald, Jane, Karen B, Lorne B, Mel, Pastor Norine and Paula



BOOK STUDY

You are invited to join Pastor Norine and the Unplug Team at 8pm on Thurs Dec. 16 for a discussion about "DIRT" - Chapter 1 - from the book Grounded by Diana Butler Bass. *There are still free copies of the book available at the church.* The discussion will be held over zoom so please rsvp to P+Norine before Tues. Dec 14 and she will email the link to you for the zoom chat.

Pastor asks this question: Did you ever "eat" dirt as a kid?



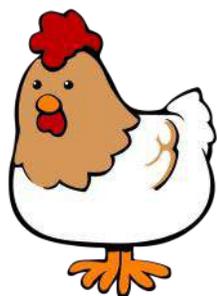
December 24th, 7:00 p.m.

St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church

47 McLachlin Street S., Arnprior, Ontario

Mandatory reserve seating is required as capacity is limited due to COVID regulations. Masks must be worn when entering the building and you will be required to sign in.

Reserve your seating online at bdwitt@hotmail.com or by calling the church at **(613) 623-4562**. When reserving please clearly indicate your name, phone number and the number of people who will be attending by **December 23**.



Our annual local **Christmas outreach project** for 2021 is frozen chickens for the Arnprior Foodbank.

Monetary donations need to be received at St. John's by

Sun. Dec. 12th.

Thank you for your support.

BIG THANK YOU'S!

During our service on October 31, we were pleased to thank some dedicated and extra hardworking volunteers within our community: Alison and Dave Burkett (l. below), Jeff Kargus and Randy Zimmerling. Each received an individualized plaque with assistance from Debbie Witt and Cory Weckwerth, and were gently 'roasted' by council vice-chair and closet comedian Andy Kalnins.



Thank you all! And thanks to Lorne Rueckwald for some photos.

Jeff was lucky enough to be surrounded by proud family, unmasked!, outside – Dawson, daughter Melissa, Debbie, Jeff, son Ryan, and Shannon. We trust Randy's family admired his plaque, and look forward to seeing them in person again in good time.

ALL SAINTS DAY



Cousins Madeleine and Alistar dance to the prelude music at home on All Saints Sunday, November 7. They also lit a candle, when others lit candles within the church building to remember loved ones gone in the last year. They were remembering their great grandpa. (Roesner/Tuypens and Roesner/Segu families)

GET MORE GOOD NEWS HERE!

Do you know that our national ELCIC and Eastern Synod send out news, good articles and resources, online event opportunities and more in their regular publications?

You can check these out on their websites. You can also subscribe to the monthly ELCIC News by going to: elcic.ca, go down to right and click 'Subscribe to newsletter'. To get the Eastern Synod Weekly, go to: easternsynod.org and click on 'Subscribe' in the upper right.

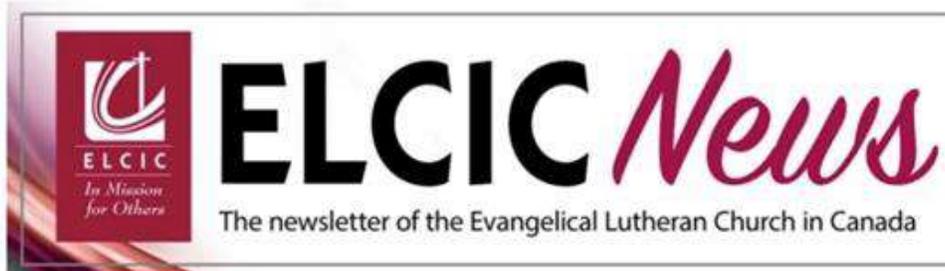
Below are item titles from recent issues of these two publications.



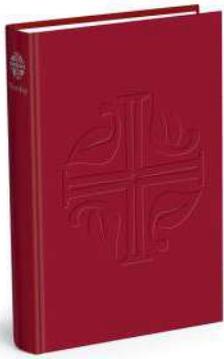
In This Issue...

November 19, 2021

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| Our Ministry Together | Mission |
| Prayers and Pints | Conversation with the Authors |
| Spiritual Retreats 2022 | Save The Dates! |
| LWF Study | Women in Ordained Ministry |
| Youth & Young Adult Ministry | "Youth Unstoppable" Watch Party |
| Children's Songs | Peace, Pickering |
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| 1. Churches Beyond Borders | 2021 Devotional |
| 2. Treasurers | Updates |
| 3. Youth Ministry | Last Call to Register - Stronger Together |
| 4. Stewardship | 2021 |
| 5. One Body Working Together | Money and Giving |
| 6. <i>Living our Faith</i> | Cycle of Prayer |
| | Worship, Share Your Devotional Practice |



FOR YOUR HOME

We have a number of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) books available for members who cannot readily come to worship in person presently because of special COVID precautions or ongoing because of mobility and health circumstances. With the ELW, you can follow the weekly service content, including hymns and psalms, as you watch livestream or later. Or use it otherwise as a reading and music resource.

If you would like a copy delivered to you, please contact Enid at eblackwell.ca@gmail.com or phone 613 623-7017. A record will be kept so that some books may come back with you as we, hopefully, return to more regular gatherings.

Please note that any green LBW and With One Voice books you received last year are yours to keep.



As you get older, you've got to stay positive. For example, the other day I fell down the stairs. Instead of getting upset, I just thought, "Wow, that's the fastest I've moved in years!"

PRESENTED BY
THE EASTERN SYNOD
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COMMITTEE

CALLING ALL UNSTOPPABLE YOUTH

An online watch party of the documentary film **Youth Unstoppable** which documents the rise of the youth climate justice movement.

This event is for youth and young adults who are passionate about climate change and would like to start a movement of climate activists in the Eastern Synod. This film is meant for youth (confirmation age) and older. Come for the movie; stay for the discussion. Supportive adults are also welcome!

December 2 @ 6:30 - 8pm
Virtual Event

Register:
bit.ly/UnstoppableYAYA



December 2021



BIRTHDAYS

Dec 4th—Kathy Tonkin

Dec 11th—Gerald Formuziewich

Dec 25th—Jacob Elliot

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 7th—Judith and Stan Johnstone



CALLING YOUNG FAMILIES . . .

. . . and any creative types looking for a new way to mark Advent. On November 7, UNPLUG held a 'Let's Rock' event. Children and some adults painted small stones to take home, and stone stacks were created in our garden beds. Take a look sometime! But, we also read about something called a stone 'Advent spiral'. Here is a picture.

As a new way to mark Advent daily in your home, you might wish to make this spiral on a table or board, and maybe add some greenery. In the middle is the manger or Christmas star to mark December 25, and all the days leading up to it are spiralled outwards from it. Each day you can remove a stone, lighting a candle or battery candle when you reach each Advent Sunday. All the lights can come together in the middle for Christmas and the Christ Child.

Or, make a big spiral outside, with stones or other natural materials, somewhere that you can walk. Each takes a turn walking into the spiral with an unlit candle in a peaceful state. Once the centre is reached, light your candle from a centre candle, and walk slowly back out of the spiral.

The walk each takes also represents an inner journey to find your own 'light' within. In the very centre of ourselves we discover our own beauty, strength, and gifts that we offer the world. We then turn from this discovery within and carry our gifts of radiance back out into the world.



UNPLUG Youth Program

I missed reporting last newsletter on the October UNPLUG event so have included it below with the two November events. A great time was had by all!

Oct 17: **“UNPLUG Challenge”** at Robert Simpson Park. We had 9 kids and their parents come out for a variety of challenging activities: a laser maze, sack races, target practice and free play. Craig Burkett was the activity leader and Zach the activity support, with Phoenix Mosiondz-Sagmeister in training as a new support person. Welcome Phoenix!



Nov 7: **“Let’s Rock!”** at St. John’s. First, 8 kids painted their rocks – lots of them to take home. Then they went to stack rocks in the garden; getting rocks balanced was natural for all the kids. Debbie Witt and Enid Blackwell were the leaders and gatherers of small rocks. Ryan provided some big rocks



from his farm. Phoenix was the activity support with Leen Al Issa in training. Welcome Leen!

Nov 21: **“Wilderness Survival”**. 17 kids had a lot of fun as well as getting some valuable skills in tips to surviving in the wilderness (the Zimmerling Farm) for 2 days until help comes. Each team selected a good site, built a shelter out of available forest materials, and got a long log (traditional Scandinavian) fire going to keep warm, luckily having “found” a nice dry package of matches! Ryan was the overall survival guide, with Zach, Phoenix, Jeff, Rob, and Craig/ Kevin able assistants for the teams. Tips: STAY PUT so you can be found. And best tools for kids: a whistle and glow stick.



December UNPLUG Events

Back to two events in December – the theme is “Birds”.

Dec 5 (1:00-2:30): “Feeding our Feathered Friends” – this event will let kids create a bird feeder out of common materials found at home and then we’re hoping to be able to deliver some to neighbours of St. John’s and the rest will go home with the kids.

Dec 12 (2:30 – 4:30): Birding hike/ walk at MacNamara Nature Trail followed by a visit to the bay of the Ottawa River to see winter water birds (or at least ones who haven’t gone south yet!).

Webinar: A Gift of a Lifetime

A Gift of a Lifetime: Providing a Charitable Gift it Through Your Will

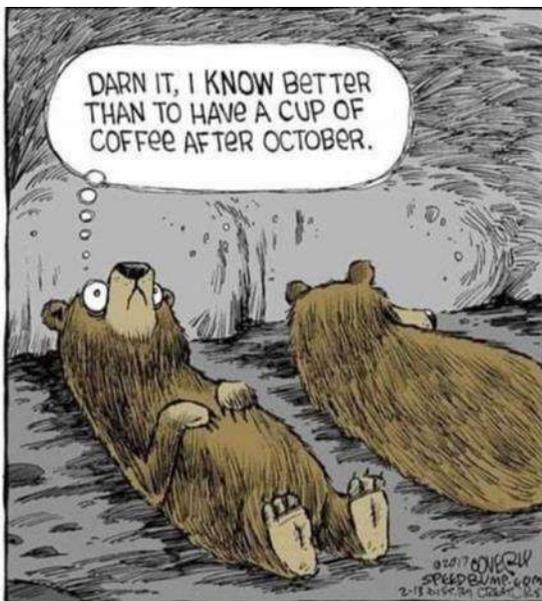


Many people want to help their favourite charity or cause by providing a gift through their Will and worry it will take away from what they leave for their family or friends. Learn how you can have it both ways by giving in your Will. We are pleased to have Jennifer Stebbing, Lawyer at Ross & McBride LLP, speak to you about legacy giving and how your estate can take advantage of tax benefits. It's an interactive session so bring your questions! *Cathy Zimmerling, Financial Secretary*

Date: Thursday, December 9

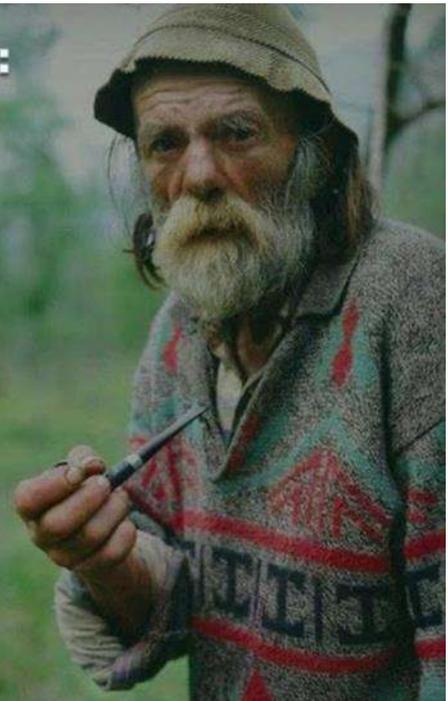
Time: noon - 1:00 pm

Register at <https://elfec.ca/webinar-gift-lifetime>



SURVIVAL TIP:

If you get lost
in the woods
start talking
about politics
and someone
will show up
to argue with
you.





A Note on the Return to Singing

Church Council has reviewed the current information from the province, SYNOD and from Renfrew County Health and is announcing that we will permit singing beginning with the First Sunday of Advent (November 28th). Masks must be worn at all times.



Church Council Meetings

Church Council Meetings have long been open to all church members. Since Church Council is still meeting virtually here is the Zoom Link. All are welcome.

Time: Dec 20, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84258002414?pwd=SXVld2JoK3NlaGlyeW1zMU1KcHNjdz09>

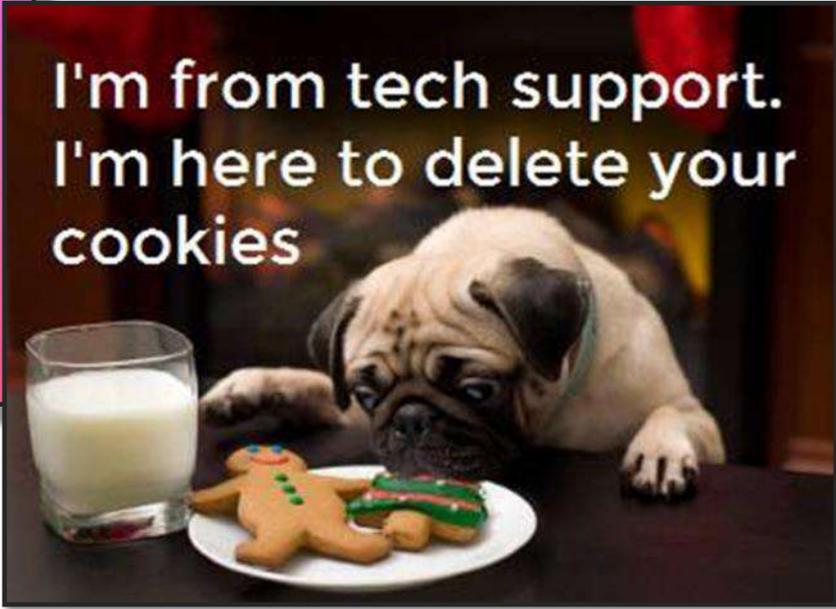


Join us on this longest night of the year, December 21st, for our "Blue Christmas" service,

A pre-recorded Blue Christmas service will be available on YouTube - Dec 21. Produced by Rev. James Murray from Trinity St. Andrew's United Church & includes Rev. Sheryl McCloud from the Admaston Pastoral Charge (United Church) & Rev. Norine Gullons from St. John's & St. James Lutheran Churches. Dave Burkett will send you the link by email. This is for 6 congregations and adherents to view.



Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2021

DATE	READING	ALTAR	USHERS	COUNTERS	GROUND
Dec 5	Andy Kalnins	Barb & Gerald Formuziewich	Beryl & Keith Richardson	Cory Weckwerth & Enid Blackwell	Randy Zimmerling
Dec 12	Melissa Watt / Nathan Brohart Family	Barb & Gerald Formuziewich	Beryl & Keith Richardson	Cory Weckwerth & Enid Blackwell	Randy Zimmerling
Dec 19	Ryan/Julie Zimmerling Family	Barb & Gerald Formuziewich	Beryl & Keith Richardson	Andy Kalnins & Enid Blackwell	Randy Zimmerling
Dec 24	Mark Boese	Barb & Gerald Formuziewich	Beryl & Keith Richardson	Andy Kalnins & Enid Blackwell	Randy Zimmerling
Dec 26	Jessica/ Rob Elliott family	Barb & Gerald Formuziewich	Pre-recorded service -no ushers	Andy Kalnins & Enid Blackwell	Randy Zimmerling