



The Mustard Seed

February 2023

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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

Church Council

Enid Blackwell (Chair)	623-7017
Debbie Witt (Sec'y)	622-1500
Andy Kalnins (Vice)	863-0202
Dave Burkett	618-5729
Rachel Roesner	804-3392
Fred Steinke	298-5017
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

The month of February will speed by! Our **CLWR fun-d-raiser is on Sat Feb 11th**. Please see the ad in this newsletter and invite family or friends to attend, or support. On **Feb 22**, we observe **Ash Wednesday** and celebrate the beginning of Lent. St. James invites St. John's to attend worship with them at **2pm** on that date at 291 Plaunt Street – TSA United Church, in Renfrew. You are also welcome to attend the Ash Wednesday worship at Emmanuel Anglican Church on Harrington Street, Arnprior at **7pm**, with Father Stopa leading worship.

The Lenten season offers us a time to take a different journey for Forty days during February and March. (**EASTER is on April 9th**) Our road is called "the way of the cross" leading to Good Friday and Easter.

As with any journey we have choices about which road to take. The easiest choice is to take the road that is used most often, well travelled, we might say. However during Lent we offer time and sacred space in our churches for in order for us to gather as a community and pray and meditate on God's words. In a world where divergent roads lead to contradictory truths, the road less travelled is the truth of the gospel.

One reason that we add spiritual practices to our Lenten journey is to respond to Gods' grace in our lives. We worship, read, listen and pray to celebrate and give thanks for the faith and blessings God has given to us. We allow ourselves to take time to "see God" in our lives and at times of quiet to have God look back at us! God has called you to be his own! May God grace you with holy blessings this Lenten Season.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our Congregation: Vicki, Jeff Obst, Ed, Jacqueline., Paul Mainprize.
And Friends of the Parish: Tere, children -Briar & Alivia, Ed, George W., Lynne Z.,
Claude, Earl, Bill, Darlene Z., Roy Bretzlaff.

We pray for all who will be having surgery this month. Bless you for believing in the power of prayers. If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.

February 2023



BIRTHDAYS

- February 1st—Rick Frivalt*
- February 2nd—Sawyer Elliot*
- February 3rd—Debbie Witt*
- February 10th—Lucas Roberts*
- February 11th—Debbie Kargus*
- February 13th—Helen Neumann*
- February 14th—Ryan Kargus*
- February 21st—Debbie Steinke*
- February 26th—Julie Zimmerling*
- February 29th—Enid Blackwell*

Anniversaries

- February 6th—Shane & Kayla Zimmerling*

February 2023 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Sunday Feb 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 a.m. Epiphany — Worship Service with Holy Communion - Video Music—No Streaming or Video • Coffee Hour
Thursday Feb 9 th	Prayer Team meets at 10a.m. every Thursday in Pastor's office.
Thursday Feb 9 th	10:00 a.m. Lutheran Pastors meet at Zion, Pembroke
Saturday Feb 11 th	4:00p.m.—6:00: CLWR "fun-d-raiser" (see ad in newsletter)
Sunday Feb 12 th	10:30 a.m. Worship Service of Word & Prayer—Recorded Music
Saturday Feb 18 th	9:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast at Jim's Restaurant
Sunday Feb 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion—Livestreaming • Sunday School
Wednesday Feb 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service with St. James & Trinity St. Andrews United Church—219 Plaunt St. Renfrew Carpooling Available: if you need a ride contact Enid Blackwell: 613 623 7017 • Also at 7pm Emmanuel Anglican Church , Arnprior, with Father John Stopa leading in-person worship.
Sunday Feb 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 a.m.—LENT I—Worship Service of Word & Prayer—Recorded Music • Enjoy pancakes during coffee hour!
Monday Feb 27 th	2:00 p.m.—Church Council meets



Minutes of the January 16th, 2023 Council Meeting

Enid Blackwell

Pr. Norine

David Burkett

Attendance:

Debbie Witt

Randy Zimmerling

Andy Kalnins (regrets)

Fred Steinke

Rachel Roesner (Regrets)

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

1. Pastor opened with a devotion and prayer.
2. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the December 19, 2022 minutes be approved as distributed. Fred Seconded, **CARRIED**.
3. **Amendment, Financial Review:** Randy Z was appointed as lead financial reviewer for 2022, with Maureen R, at AGM meeting held Mar.13, 2022 (Motion by congregation, S, Carried) He is now interim Treasurer. Agreed to appoint Maxzene Z to replace Randy as lead financial reviewer for 2022. Moved by Dave, Seconded by Fred. **CARRIED**
4. **Annual Meeting:** The AGM will be held March 5, 2023 following worship and simple lunch. All reports are to be in by the end of January. The printed Annual Report is expected to be distributed on or around February 26.
5. **Council Succession Review:** A chart was circulated prior to meeting to show the status of each member—no discussion during meeting. Andy Kalnins and Debbie Witt, completing their first 2-year term, to be asked if they are willing to stand for Council for another term. Oral message out for Treasurer candidates.
6. **Finance:** Our net ordinary income is \$7,697 for 2022. The largest positive in over 10 years largely by generous donations. We met or surpassed all our financial commitments, plus we completed over \$10,000 in renovations in the basement using existing funds. Tax receipts were emailed on Jan. 14 or a hard copy out on Jan. 15. Initial working budget for 2023 reviewed.
7. **Communications:** Deliveries to 11 household/individuals, Facebook posts continue. For February MS newsletter, Feb.1 is input deadline. Gathering info for updating Memoriam book in narthex. Sheets to update members' privacy/permission details; notebook/calendar for greeters to record attendance at services; assists with worship planning. Fellowship: Jan. 22, Feb 5 and 19. Volunteer recognition: later in year, suggestions requested.
8. **Visioning & Planning: *Renewal Team*** met Jan.10, identified purpose as re-energizing church, as we emerge from pandemic, to: gather, grow in faith, and practise at being disciples. Focus on 1-2 years. Rejuvenation of St. John's culture as a welcoming, serving, inclusive faith community while looking at improving our resources. Focus on worship, volunteer succession, outreach, team building, family needs & involvement. Next meeting, Jan. 24.
9. **Long Range Planning** to be formed as a separate team looking largely at finances, property and long range future decisions, 2-5 years.
10. **Pastor's report:** Ministry continues with home visits, calls, etc. Pastor will be away Feb. 12 for St. James AGM, and Feb. 26 (con ed Sunday). Covering pastoral care/emergencies for Rev. James Murray at Trinity Saint Andrews (TSA) in Renfrew for January. Participant in Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, afternoon service at TSA, for 6 churches.
10. **Technology:** Dave reported the current situation and workload is not sustainable. He proposed: 5 rotational Sundays: **1:** live music with book for text, solely in person (as before pandemic), **2 and 4:** live streaming—text on screen: Dave prepares and runs the services. **3:** Music Videos with book for text: Dave prepares but others run service. **5:** audio only: recorded music, book for text, Dave prepares, run by others. Council agreed with Dave's proposal. To begin: Sunday, January 22 with live music with book when guest organist with us.
11. **Property:** All property expenses reviewed in preparation for budget. Randy building an inventory of contents of the church toward getting insurance quotes. Work continues on setup for Sunday School starting Jan. 29, including locomotive building.

Continued over —>

Council Minutes continued,

12. Outreach: Chili Bowl event planned for Feb. 11 from 4-6 in SJL basement. Requests for volunteers to help and to bring home made chili or soups, buns, cookies. Social media publicity. Monies raised directed to a specific CLWR project. Hope for future simple 'Bowl Meals' planned. Outreach Bowl members: Andy Kalnins, Debbie and Jeff Kargus, Maureen Rueckwald, Cathy and Randy Zimmerling.

13. Health & Safety: No Report

14. Operations matters: No Report

15. Other Business:

- Planning Cycle (through May).
- Closing – Round Table and Prayer

16. Next meeting: Budget Meeting: January 30 at 2:00

Council Meeting: February 27 at 2:00

The happiest photo you will see today on the internet.



Branch manager and assistant branch manager 😄



BEAR WITH ME, THESE'LL BE MY FIRST UNINTERRUPTED WORDS IN 40 YEARS.

(©) Bob Griffiths/For The Washington Post





NOTICES



Official Notice: Annual Meeting for 2022 - March 5, 2023

Date: Feb 3, 2023

To: St. John's Lutheran Arnprior Members:

Please accept this as official written notice of our Annual Meeting for 2022.

Our Annual Meeting for 2022 takes place Sunday, March 5, 2023 following 10:30 worship service and a light lunch. It is expected to begin downstairs at approximately 12:00 noon.

Thank you for noting this and for your participation.

Yours faithfully,

Enid Blackwell On behalf of Congregational Council

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ARNPRIOR ONTARIO



2022 ANNUAL REPORT
MARCH 5, 2023

Reports for Annual Meeting Document

If you have not yet forwarded a 2022 report for your area of ministry to Debbie Witt (bkwdwitt@hotmail.com), **please do so as soon as possible**. This allows time for preparation, printing and distribution of the document well in advance of our March 5 Annual Meeting. Thank you!



Earring Found

Small earring found in the church. Appears to be white gold with diamonds down the centre. Contact Pastor Norine.

Chili ‘n’ Soup Bowl

St. John’s Lutheran Church, 47 McLachlin St. S., Arnprior

Saturday February 11th 4:00 – 6:00

Adults \$15 Children \$10

Takeout is available

Serving Chili, Soup, Buns, Cookies, Tea, Coffee, Water

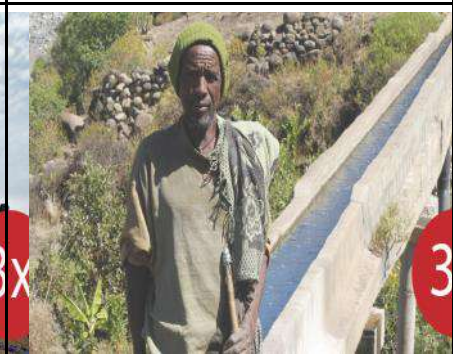
All proceeds in support of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (Canadian Government and Canadian Food Grains is currently providing 3 and 4x matching for every dollar donated!!)



Seeds \$50 For people starting over after drought, disaster or war, seeds provide health food and the ability to earn an income. Your gift can become a full garden for two families!

Garden tools \$75 Spades, rakes and hoes will help families grow gardens full of healthy food to eat and sell at the market.

Flock of chickens \$45 Families who’ve had to flee their homes need a way to generate income again. Help a family start a small chicken farm, which gives them eggs, meat and a way to build a livelihood.



Crop know-how \$100 Give training to farmers in Burundi so they can grow more food to feed themselves, their families and their communities.

Fight drought \$250 In Ethiopia, drought has put farmers at risk of losing their livelihoods, with many forced to leave their homes. Your gift can give farmers hope through the construction of irrigation canals that will connect farmers’ fields to a steady water supply.

Emergency food \$20 Give life-saving food to a family in an emergency. When disaster, drought or famine strikes, your gift will allow our local partners to immediately get life-saving food to families facing severe malnutrition.

thank  you



St. John's Lutheran Church
Arnprior

25 January 2023

To members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

Church Council and I, Pastor Norine, thank each and every one of you for your generous financial support. Your response to the Christmas appeal was overwhelming! Your contributions are a sign of affirmation to all of us, as we involve all of you in the various ministries of our faith community.

It is true that our offerings enable us to fulfill our mission in our local community, or nationally or around the world through CLWR. I am talking more than that. Your generosity makes a difference in our areas of **hope and action - vision & mission**. You see, there is a tangible impact for any family, organization, or church, when they do not have to worry about their finances. They can relax a little and dream more and move forward with their visions and missions. It provides an opportunity to explore new ways of serving, both internally and externally.

God provides us, St. John's, with generous grace! We respond by sharing our time and talents and finances through generous actions towards others. I personally am grateful for all of you.

Matthew 19:26 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

²⁶ *But Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.'*

Sincerely, Rev. Norine E Gullons

P.S. The financial report may be found in the February newsletter.

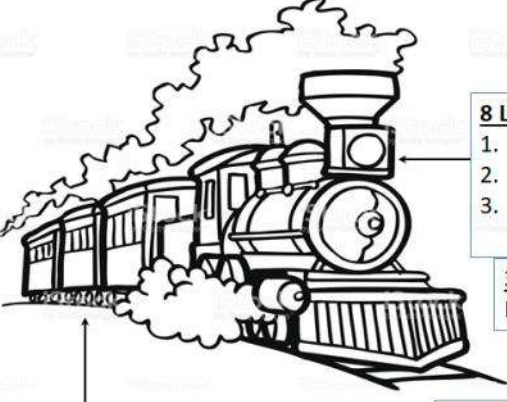
Re-Start of Sunday School

Sunday School was re-started after a long COVID delay with a purchased curriculum called “Rocky Railway”. There are 5 Sunday’s in the program which is run once a month and scheduled for leader and kids’ availability. Below are the Bible points and the Bible stories covered each day.

Bible Point	Bible Story
Jesus’ power helps us do hard things.	Ananias helps Saul.
Jesus’ power gives us hope.	Paul encourages others in a storm and a shipwreck.
Jesus’ power helps us be bold,	Peter & John teach about Jesus.
Jesus’ power lets us live forever.	Jesus’ death and resurrection.
Jesus’ power helps us be good friends.	The church is united.

These points are reinforced with the songs the kids learn, in Bible Adventures (where there is often a visitor to help tell the story), the Imagination or Exploration stations and games.

There’s lots of support for the program and model of running Sunday School with 13 kids registered, 8 leaders in 3 teams, 3 teen assistants. Behind the scenes (or at the depot) are 5 support people and 3 helpers from Property.



8 Leaders (3 teams):

1. Ryan & Julie Z
2. Jessica E, Ryan & Shannon K
3. Nathan B, Melissa W & P+ Norine

3 Teen Assistants:
Liam C, Phoenix M-S, Zach Z

13 Kids (8 elementary, 5 pre-school)
Kalin & Rory B, Emily & Katie B, Phoenix B, Thomas B, Jason & Sawyer E, Ember M-S, Alisdar S, Blake & Nathan Z

5 Support:
Alison B & Cathy Z (prep)
Maxene Z, Joy S, Debbie W (snacks)

3 Property:
Dave B, Randy Z, Jeff K





Sally Azar

As a Companion Synod and dear friend of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Jordan And The Holy Land, the Eastern Synod family extends our warmest congratulations and joyful prayers to Rev. Sally Azar on the occasion of her Ordination.

Rev. Azar is the first Palestinian woman ordained to serve as a pastor in the Holy Land. Her ordination took place in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem on Sunday, January 22, 2023.

An excerpt from the LWF: The church was filled to the brim and there was much joy on this historic occasion. Church leaders and representatives from around the globe gathered to participate in and witness the historic event. An LWF Council member, Azar has served the Communion as a young woman in a leadership role for a number of years already. LWF looks forward to her continued engagement and ministry for many years to come.

Supporting Arnprior & District Food Bank - Children's Snack Pack Program



Items included in a Children's Healthy Snack Pack include apple juice, fruit cups, granola bars, cheese & crackers, and pudding cups.



On behalf of our congregation, Enid was on hand to happily provide Arnprior & District Food Bank Assistant Manager, Pat Tait, a \$1000.00 donation. The funds will be used to assist with cost of purchasing items for the Children's Healthy Snack Pack Program.

Thank you to our Eastern Synod Mission Grant Committee for their generosity and support of this program.



Financial Update

On Jan. 30th your Church Council reviewed the final 2022 Financials following a very thorough review by our annual financial review team of Maxzene Zimmerling and Maureen Rueckwald. We will be providing all of the details at our AGM in March but the bottom line is that we finished with the best results that we at St. John's have seen in a very long time- a positive income of \$7,693. On a comparative basis our total income was \$11,794 greater than it was in 2021 (almost a 15% increase!) Additionally, we met or exceeded our commitments in all the Outreach categories that were prioritized as part of the 2022 budget process. Your generous donations through out the year, gifts of time, talent and your prayers enabled our congregation to continue to fulfil our mission in the community and our committed goals for 2022.

We are humbled and grateful for the incredible support that we have received.

Respectfully submitted by

Randy Zimmerling

Interim Treasurer





VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

February 2023

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUN-TERS	SOCIAL
Feb 5 th	Mark Boese	Jo Anne & Lorne	Cathy & Randy	Jo Anne & Lorne	Pastor & Enid
Feb 12 th	Karen Greening	Jo Anne & Lorne	Cathy & Randy	Jo Anne & Lorne	
Feb 19 th	Cathy Zimmerling	Jo Anne & Lorne	Cathy & Randy	Jo Anne & Lorne	
Feb 26 th	Debbie / Jeff Kargus	Jo Anne & Lorne	Cathy & Randy	Jo Anne & Lorne	Debbie & Jeff



Jan 22nd Fisher Jeff

January 9th
Baptism
time for
Pastor



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