



The Mustard Seed

February Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Pastor:

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Church Council

Enid Blackwell (Chair)	623-7017
Debbie Witt	622-1500
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Andy Kalnins (Vice)	863-0202
Alison Burkett (Treasurer)	618-5716
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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."

Pastor's Message

Dear faith family,

Today the sun is shining through my home office window and that is cheering me up considerably. January has seemed to be a particularly long month but we are nearing the end of this lockdown. Many colleagues in leadership roles are suffering from "coping fatigue".

St. James is returning to in person worship on Feb 6 and they are holding their AGM on Feb 13. As I stay with them for that meeting, St. John's will not return to worship until Feb 20.

Enid Blackwell (chairperson) and I attended an Eastern Synod led Zoom discussion last night (Jan 25) with 88 participants across the ELCIC. The discussion was entitled "**What's next for our church?**" Synod and Seminary staff, Pastors and lay people were all part of the discussion. We looked at those issues that have changed our understanding of our local churches. Our social media and technical experts have allowed all to participate in worship, conversations, book discussions, Bible studies, meetings, and hearing "other presiders & preachers – **all without being in the same location**". In conclusion, these comments were made:

- we need to maintain ongoing resourcefulness,
- there is no going back to what we used to do,
- new ideas and possibilities are varied.

Both of our churches have Annual General Meetings coming up. Please think about this same question. "**What's next for our church?**" What is *your vision* for your faith community? What are we going to do this year? We celebrate that God has remained present with us in a different way, and we look forward to seeing where God's grace and love lead us next.

Thanks be to God

February 2022 Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT
Sunday Feb 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship Service of Word and Prayer—Pre-recorded service available via YouTube
Monday Feb 7 th	1:00 p.m. Church council 2 nd budget meeting via Zoom.
Tuesday Feb 8 th	9:30 a.m. Pastor meeting with Bishop and colleagues via Zoom
Thursday Feb 10 th	Morning Zoom call with Ottawa Valley Pastors
Sunday Feb 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship service of Word and Prayer - pre-recorded service available by YouTube. Pastor Norine stays at St. James for their AGM. • All reports for St. John's AGM should be submitted. See reminder in Newsletter
Thursday Feb 17 th	7pm Book group discussion via zoom on Chapter 2 "WATER" from the book <u>Grounded</u> by Diana Butler Bass. (see ad in newsletter)
Sunday Feb 20th	10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion (planned to be in-person and live streamed).
Tuesday Feb 22 nd	1:00 p.m. Church Council meets via Zoom. Contact Andy Kalnins flatrapids@gmail.com ,if you wish to attend—he will send a link:
Sunday Feb 27th	10:30 a.m. Worship service of Word and Prayer. (planned to be in-person and live streamed).

Prayer For Our Community

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality every thing and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Council Meeting

Minutes of the January 16th, 2022

		Attendance (ZOOM)	
Enid Blackwell		David Burkett	Pr. Norine
Alison Burkett		Andy Kalnins	Debbie Witt
		Rachel Roesner	

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Dave moved that the Dec 15th, 2021 minutes be approved as distributed, Andy seconded, **CARRIED.**
2. **Finance:** Ulla has agreed to act as auditor for the 2021 books.
3. **AGM:** Council meeting next on Feb 21st. Council needs to approve the financials before they go to the auditor. Suggest an early special meeting to approve the financials. Message regarding the 2022 budget to congregation needs to be clear.
4. **Pastor's report:** Pastor presented her activity report. It was a busy month. Pr. Stan had two funerals during Pastor's vacation.
5. **COVID Protocols:** Lorne and Andy to present a report to council. Suggest we approach the re-opening decision on a rolling two week basis.
6. **Communications:** Facebook – 120 reaches on Christmas Eve service. Rachel suggested doing a profile on Pastor for facebook and Newsletter. Possibly a video.
7. **Operations matters:** Work continues on job descriptions – focussing on providing details.
8. **Tech and Property:** The switcher box is being replaced under warranty. This will let us record directly to a hard-drive from the switcher, increasing quality of both sound and audio.
9. **Other Business:**
 - **Email vote policy** – Andy moved the policy be accepted, Debbie seconded, **CARRIED.**
 - **Motion concerning Annual GM** to be held no later than April 30th, 2022. This would allow better chance of being able to hold it in-person. Andy moved and Dave seconded. **CARRIED.**
 - **Planning Cycle:** was reviewed.
 - **NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, Feb 22nd 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment: 12:30pm

Worship Services in February

We plan to **resume in-person worship at St. John's on Sunday, February 20, 10:30 a.m.** This has been decided given current recommendations from our Re-opening Task Force and from Synod, and from counsel with our local public health unit. When we resume, safety procedures that we've become accustomed to will once again be in place:

- Welcoming roles (screening, attendance record, masks, physical distancing and hand sanitizing).
- Facilitated movement throughout the service (e.g. entry, Holy Communion, exit) and attention to safe distancing, sequential exiting and limited personal interaction within the building.
- Worshipers are encouraged to bring and keep with them a minimum of personal belongings.
- Hymnals used will be the new cranberry Evangelical Lutheran Worship books in the pews.

Pre-recorded, online worship will continue for February 6 and 13. See your emails, our website or our Facebook for links. For those of us without ready access to internet, please watch for hand delivery of printed services for 1 or both of these 2 Sundays.

We thank you again, Pastor Norine, producer Dave, readers and altar guild for your ongoing ministries in this preparation and broadcasting service.

We look forward to your presence Sunday, February 20 and onwards, and thank you for continued faithful support and safe participation in the congregation and community in varied ways. Should situations change between now and February 20, we will reassess the opening date and more communication will go out by email and by phone/by hand if needed.

Any questions, please contact Enid, 613 623-7017. We include below Bishop Michael's January 24, 2022 letter to all Eastern Synod parishes.



Message from Bishop Michael regarding COVID

January 24, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

When I communicated with you at the beginning of this month, it was my counsel that all churches across our synod should pause their in-person worship until the end of January. I was encouraged to see that the vast majority of congregations chose to do so. Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and well-being of your neighbours and communities. This is, indeed, an act of love.

As the regulations within our four provinces begin to lessen, with children returning to school and businesses re-opening, **I would encourage you to extend the pause of in-person gatherings for an additional two weeks.** This will allow time for the projected peak of the Omicron Variant, and for the public health effects of the lessening of restrictions to become better known. As such, should current trends continue, I would recommend that congregations wishing to resume in-person worship consider doing so with a **February 20, 2022** target date. As always, please be sure to consult with your local public health for regulations specific to your region.

I, and my colleagues in the office, remain available to support you as we navigate the days ahead. We are in the early stages of planning a Synod Wide Pentecost service (more information will be available soon); and have scheduled a series of zoom meetings with rostered leaders in the days ahead. Additional opportunities for lay and rostered leaders to gather virtually for learning and conversation are also available.

I am cognizant of the fact that this recommendation will bring relief to some of you and consternation to others. You are, of course, free to either accept or disregard my counsel. I do, however, feel compelled to provide it to you and do so with love, prayers and all best wishes for your continued health and wellbeing and that of the communities with whom you serve. God's peace be with you! Bishop Michael

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.

Friends of the Parish: Mary K. (Jeff Kargus's mother); Leslie, Tere, Lorraine & Iona B. (Rhonda McTeer's sister and mother); Alivia, Lucille, Kathleen, Ed (Bob Witt's cousin), Bill.

Please continue to pray for all children, youth, teachers, and staff that have returned to school. Bless you for believing in the power of prayers. If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.

Floral Thanks!

During Advent and Christmas season, December 2021 to January 2022, our sanctuary was beautified with many poinsettias. They added a feeling of warmth, colour and celebration to our in-person and online worship.

Thank you very much to those who made special contributions towards these flowers:

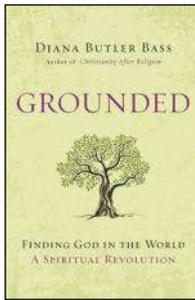
- Carol Ann Chippior and family – in memory of loved ones
- Gwen Steinke and family – in memory of Ed
- Floss Obst – in memory of loved ones



Photos by Lorne Rueckwald



BOOK STUDY

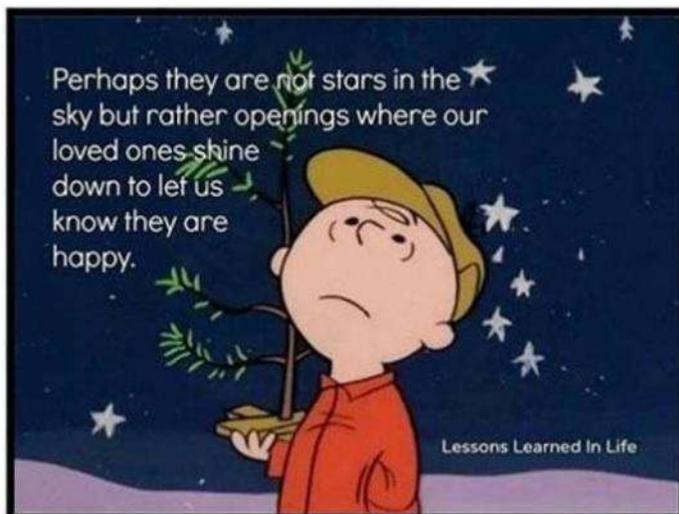


You are invited to join Pastor Norine and the Unplug Team at 7pm on Thurs February 17th for a discussion about “water” - Chapter 2 - from the book **Grounded** by Diana Butler Bass. *There are still free copies of the book available at the church.*

The discussion will be held over zoom so please rsvp to P+Norine before Tues, February 15th and she will email the link to you for the zoom chat.

Creating!

How about these nifty, wooden cell phone holders Lorne Bretzloff is making? You're creative! Thanks, Lorne, for contributing your talent and time in COVID times to the Men's Shed. Remember, if **you** would like to share something special you've grown, made or learned in COVID times that's brought you joy, tell Dave. It's good to share joy in creation!



What We Don't Know. . . Often

Often, what we do or show, or say or think . . . or sing or pray! ripples out and we never know how it may have circled round or touched others.

But this past month, P+ Norine received the note below from someone named Janice who watched our January 16 service in another community. And so we do know! What a thoughtful and appreciative response, and good to hear, and so I share it on to you. (Below in *italics*.)

Thanks, Pastor Norine for bringing out new angles on this so human Mary/Jesus, mother/son relationship, and this story of noticing, naming, asking. (Wedding at Cana) And thank you, Dave, for making sure it went out in our community and well beyond, and for producing the other services each week. We are blessed!

Enid

Good morning, Norine

I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed your service this week. Your sermon brought out so many of Jesus' human qualities which I always enjoy. I also loved how you got to the centre of Mary's and his mother/son relationship. (I could hear Him saying to her, "All right, Mom! Enough! I'm on a break here!!!"). Well done.

The videos of your hymns were excellent. I could have "driven" down the British country road all afternoon. Actually I watched it several times! England or Scotland in the spring. How lovely!

But the piece de resistance was This Little Light of Mine performed by Wesley Wuppets. What an ending! What a way to keep your congregation singing and smiling the rest of the day. Just terrific!!

So thank you, Pastor. It was all much enjoyed and appreciated.

Keep up the good work. :)



The Cowboy Boots



(Anyone who has ever dressed a child will love this)

Did you hear about the Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots?

He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on.

By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as, together, they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue, rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?", like she wanted to.

Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.

No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear'em".

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again.

Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots."

I HATE IT WHEN I CAN'T
FIGURE OUT HOW TO
OPERATE THE I-PHONE,
AND THE RESIDENT
TECH EXPERT
IS ASLEEP.

BECAUSE HE'S 5.

AND IT'S PAST
HIS BEDTIME.



I really don't
mind getting
older, but my
body is taking
it badly.

The Signature Behind the Wall

1947 - Some of us were around and some were not. The Second World War had ended just two years previously, and many were still trying to find their place in the world. Arnprior, McNab, and Braeside were growing. Young Eric Obst was helping build his sister Elsie's house. He was 15 years old and circumstance and the times had him out earning a wage, rather than continuing in formal schooling.

We all likely have an innate desire to leave our mark on this world, and Eric decided to do it literally: he wrote his name on the boards behind joists in the house. It was a sly gesture, he would know it was there, but no one else would. It would be hidden behind plaster, behind wallpaper and paint, and wall hangings, and the cloak of time. No one but Eric Obst would know until 2022. Kaitlin Pierce and her husband Dan Hubert were renovating the home, and, despite the solid construction, were able to expose the walls to find the signature of a young man at the start of his eventful life.



Eric Obst was born in Arnprior. Like a lot of us, he is the child of immigrants. His parents, after arriving from Germany, worked as indentured farm workers in Stewartville, but were able to eventually move closer to Arnprior. The Obsts, like many, lived on a very low income given the ravages of a depression and two horrible wars, but Eric never thought he was poor. "We had the fortune to have some pigs and chickens and that gave us food that a lot of town people could not afford." Eric recently recalled.

Eric found employment at Arnprior's "Cabinet Factory". The company did lots of specialty wood work, and eventually found a market in making cabinets for the new invention of television. By his own admission, Eric did not totally love working there, but one of his mentors advised him to hang in: "I can make a refinisher out of you young fella, and you never know where that can come in handy." He persevered, and he learned, and he became a refinisher and cabinet maker.

Time went on and Eric married and raised a family but that will be a story for another day. Eric left the Cabinet Factory. Eric and his brother Gordie opened up a garage. Time marched onwards. The government moved the highway. A garage not on the highway does not work. The garage closed. Things were looking gloomy.

But years previously, someone had said "I can make a refinisher out of you young fella and you never know where that can come in handy". So Eric went into the refinishing business for over three decades. Eric's speciality was working on refinishing woodwork in churches in the Ottawa Valley and beyond. In fact, the ash pews at St John's Lutheran were lovingly restored by Eric Obst.

Eric did a lot more for our church and our community than just work with wood, but again, that is a story for another day. In a few weeks the signature tag of the young Eric Obst will again be hidden. But it will still be there, waiting to be discovered maybe one day in the future. And when people in the Ottawa Valley attend worship in their own churches there is a good chance that they will see the skill of Eric Obst.

February 2022



ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 6th—Shane & Kayla Zimmerling

Feb 26th—Marion & Bill Hoops

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 1st—Rick Frivalt

Feb 2nd—Sawyer Elliot

Feb 3rd—Debbie Witt

Feb 10th—Lucas Roberts

Feb 11th—Debbie Kargus

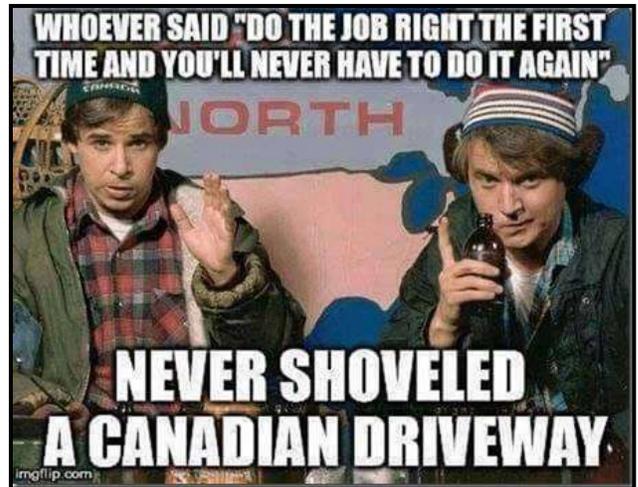
Feb 13th—Helen Neumann

Feb 14th—Ryan Kargus

Feb 21st—Debbie Steinke

Feb 26th—Julie Zimmerling

Feb 27th—Enid Blackwell



SO, HOW DID YOU LIKE THE JANUARY SNOW AND COLD?



I made it! And now I get to run with Hoyt & Kaleigh. Onyx, 9 mo. old, and his first big snow-fall.

The pines can take it!
Added beauty



-20^c or lower doesn't stop Rory and Kalin Brohart from playing outdoors!



'Snow Runner' Kaleigh Craig and her dogs.



A frozen snowperson and her dog. Anda and Darva



Now more than ever, we need to be able to offer each other grace.

- Grace for having different opinions.
- Grace for not always knowing the answer.
- Grace for making mistakes.
- Grace as we learn to do better.
- Grace for doing the best we can.

That's how we get through tough times like these—by lifting each other up, forgiving each other's humanness, and loving each other even when it's hard.

HER VIEW FROM HOME





Annual Meeting Reports and Meeting Date

A reminder: Please provide any written reports for our annual meeting for 2021 by February 13, 2022 to Enid (by hand, or to eblackwell.ca@gmail.com) or to Dave (dave.burkett@gmail.com). Any questions, please contact Enid, 613 623-7017. Receipt of these reports will help with preparation of the full report for our Annual Meeting.

Last year, we had the following reports, in addition to pastoral, chairperson and financial reports: Altar Guild, Kitchen/Fellowship, Children and Family Activity, Outreach, Re-opening Task Force Committee, Communications, Technology, Property, PAR. A '21 Fundraising report would be a good addition.

If an in person annual meeting can be held safely in March, Council expects our Annual Meeting to be held March 13 this year (Daylight Saving time begins) following worship. **Please pencil March 13 in your calendars.** This date and time will to be confirmed by newsletter and/or email, as we take into account any needed public health measures at that time.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR February 2022

DATE	READING	ALTAR	USHERS	COUNTERS	BUILDING & GROUNDS
Feb 6 th	Mark Boese	Joanne & Lorne	N/A	Maureen & Lorne	Gerald, Lorne and Randy
Feb 13 th	Maureen Rueckwald	Joanne & Lorne	N/A	Maureen & Lorne	Gerald, Lorne and Randy
Feb 20 th	Joy Statham	Joanne & Lorne	Maureen & Lorne	Maureen & Lorne	Gerald, Lorne and Randy
Feb 27 th	Rachel Roesner & Thomas	Joanne & Lorne	Maureen & Lorne	Maureen & Lorne	Gerald, Lorne and Randy