



# The Mustard Seed

February 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
Dave Burkett	618-5729
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***

*Dear faith family and friends,*

As I write this, it is a beautiful sunny day. It has been announced that **St. James will have their Annual General Meeting on Feb 11 after worship.**

February will speed by. On Valentines Day, **Feb 14**, we observe Ash Wednesday and celebrate the beginning of Lent. **You are all invited to attend the Ash Wednesday Service at 1pm in the chapel at Trinity-St. Andrew's, Renfrew, with the leadership of Rev. James Murray.**

The Lenten season offers us a time to take a different journey for Forty days during February and March. (EASTER is on March 31)

*Robert Frost once wrote "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."*

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 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 study to celebrate and give thanks for the faith God has put in 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

# February 2024 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Fridays	1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge
Wednesdays	6:00-7:00p.m. Wednesday in the Hall
Thursdays	10:00a.m. — Prayer group meets
<b>Sunday Feb 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion</b></li> <li>• Social Follows</li> </ul>
<b>Sunday Feb 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word, (lay led)</b></li> <li>• <b>10:30 a.m. — Sunday School</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sunday Feb 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m. Worship Service of the Word, Pastor Norine</b>
Monday Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m. Church Council Meets
Saturday Feb 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m. — Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s Restaurant
<b>Sunday Feb 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word (lay led)</b>



“I downloaded them from a cloud.”



“Acme Excavating. Faith speaking.”



## *Draft Minutes of January 22, 2024 Council Meeting*

### *Attendance:*

Andy Kalnins	Pr. Norine (regrets)	Fred Steinke
Enid Blackwell	Debbie Witt	Mellissa Watt (regrets)
	David Burkett	

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the November 27, 2023 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Dave, CARRIED.
2. **Finance:** Enid reported that we met our projected “ordinary” budget income and because some budgeted expense areas are lower than expected, we have ended with a positive net ordinary income of some \$4,000 to \$6,000. Bank account: \$35,422. Investment account: \$28,396. Year end financial adjustments are yet to come. Also, “other” income and expenses show considerable outreach support of CLWR, Camperships, TAP, and the Food Bank. Thanks to all for year end donations and response to appeal.
3. **Property:** NO REPORT
4. **Pastor’s report:** NO REPORT
5. **Long Range Planning:** Dave gave a lengthy detailed reported on the future of St. John’s with projections on how long we can stay open with things the way they are and other possible scenarios that could help determine decisions. After the next Council meeting within the next few weeks Council will decide on the date of a presentation to our members and then voted on by them.
6. **Outreach:** REPORT
7. **Technology:** Decision made to renew and pay for CCLI copyright licence but not to renew streaming licence as no longer streaming and no expectation presently to do so in 2024.
8. **Communication and Rental:** NO REPORT
9. **Health and Safety:** NO REPORT
10. **Youth:** Mellissa sent her report stating that Sunday School will be on January 28 with the theme being Noah’s Arc. There are 5 confirmed children to attend and Mellissa and Nate will be the teachers. Jessica and Rob will be doing February.
11. **Operations:** NO REPORT
12. **New Business:**
  - 1) A schedule has been drawn up between St. James and St. John’s for pastoral covered services January 28, February 11, 25, March 10, 24 – Renfrew, February 4, 18, March 3, 17, 31 - Arnprior. Council supports this modification in Pr. Norine’s workload as she works towards recovery.
  - 2) Council will meet within the next few weeks to discuss further the Long Range Planning Report.
  - 3) Council decide the date for the AGM will be Sunday, March 17.
14. **Close of Meeting:** This meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.  
Next meeting: February 19 at 7:00.

# PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

**From our Congregation:** Ed, Jacqueline, Paul, Rachel, Jeff Obst, June, Vicki, Samantha, P+ Norine and

**Friends:** Tere, children Briar and Alivia, Lynne Z., Claude, Amy, and Bob.

## February 2024



### **BIRTHDAYS**

*February 1<sup>st</sup>—Rick Frivalt*

*February 2<sup>nd</sup>—Sawyer Elliot*

*February 3<sup>rd</sup>—Debbie Witt*

*February 10<sup>th</sup>—Lucas Roberts*

*February 11<sup>th</sup>—Debbie Kargus*

*February 14<sup>th</sup>—Ryan Kargus*

*February 21<sup>st</sup>—Debbie Steinke*

*February 26<sup>th</sup>—Julie Zimmerling*

*February 29<sup>th</sup>—Enid Backwell*

### **Anniversaries**

*February 6<sup>th</sup>—*

*Shane & Kayla Zimmerling*





Courtesy of Lorne Rueckwald

On January 21st, 2024, Bishop Michael Pryse attended a combined service with St. James.



Presentation of a Gift to the Bishop



Social followed the Service

The Helpers



Bishop with the Cake and Lunch Ladies







## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Sunday, March 17th** is a day that should be circled in your calendar!

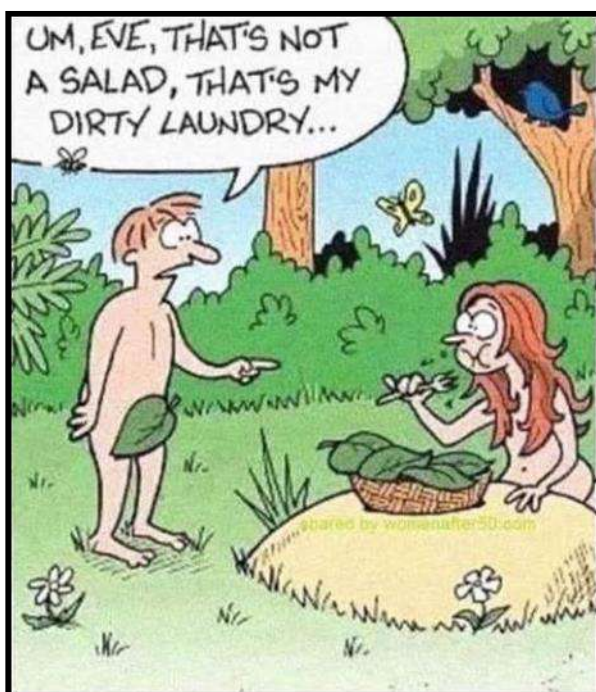
It is St. Patrick's Day of course! Here in the Ottawa Valley, the Eganville Leader will print a special edition to mark the day. It will be next to impossible to find a parking spot in Douglas. And for reasons known only to the consumer, green beer will be ubiquitous.

But on the Lutheran Calendar, St. Patrick's Day is a Feast Day. In fact, we may owe our faith traditions to Patrick. We know that he likely was born into a wealthy Roman family in England. As a teenager, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and spent 6 years there as a shepherd before escaping to France. After getting religious training there, and undergoing a conversion experience (which of course are not the same thing) he made his way back to Ireland. His nascent church, and what become its Celtic Traditions, eventually made their way to Europe and Germany. So, if you choose to raise a toast that day to St. Patrick, forget the shamrocks, the shillelagh, and the silly hats. But maybe think of our church. Maybe, just maybe, we would not be here, if it were not for St. Patrick!

But Sunday, March 17th is also the day of our AGM or Annual General Meeting. AGMs are a bit like filing income tax or flossing your teeth. Not always fun, but very mandatory. We need an AGM to go on as a church. So please make every effort to attend. More information will coming out soon.

If you are a head of a team, and wish to submit something to the annual report, please try and get it to me by Wednesday February 28th.

Again - March 17 - in 2024 it is doubly important! And instead of wearing green (which is okay) consider doing something green!!



# THANK YOU !

Congregational council extends heartfelt thanks for the generosity of members in helping St. John's exceed our budgeted income in 2023. Your offerings, together with other income received from our Muslim friends, who pray weekly in our building, from our community dancers led by Andréa Villarreal, and from investment growth, allowed us to reach over \$93,000 in total income. We thank you, especially, for the solid response to our Christmas appeal. As some of our expenses were less than budgeted, we end 2023 with a positive net ordinary income of some \$4,000-\$6,000. Final figures will be shown in our Annual Report.

As well, over and above this budget, you have contributed freely to CLWR emergency food programs, camping opportunities for children, the local food bank, and, through Teachers Against Poverty, to our students' wellbeing. May we continue to be a faithful and caring community.

## The Bible in 50 Words

God made.  
Adam bit.  
Noah arked.  
Abraham split.

Jacob fooled.  
Joseph ruled.  
Bush talked.  
Moses balked.

Pharaoh plagued.  
People walked.  
Sea divided.  
Tablets guided.

Promise landed.  
Saul freaked.  
David peeked.

Prophets warned.  
Jesus born.  
God walked.  
Love talked.

Anger crucified.  
Hope died.  
Love rose.

Spirit flamed.  
Word spread.  
God remained.



*"Sorry for the wait, ma'am. We're a little short-handed."*



## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### February 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREET-ERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
<b>Feb 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Vicki Weichenthal	Jo Anne, Lorne, Kathy T	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion	SOCIAL	Randy
<b>Feb 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Bob Witt	Jo Anne, Lorne, Kathy T	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion		Randy
<b>Feb 14<sup>th</sup></b> Ash Wednesday	Kathy Tonkin	Jo Anne, Lorne, Kathy T	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion		Randy
<b>Feb 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Maureen Rueckwald	Jo Anne, Lorne, Kathy T	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion	SOCIAL	Randy
<b>Feb 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Mellissa / Nathan	Jo Anne, Lorne, Kathy T	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion		Randy

### 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