

The Mustard Seed

January 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 623-7017
Jeff Kargus 623-0192
Dave Burkett 618-5729
Cory Weckwerth 793-3701

Pastor's Message



Epiphany is usually celebrated in faith communities on Jan 6. We are reminded of “the rest of the Christmas story” and retell the words from Matthew 2: 1-12 about the light of the star that guided the magi to the baby Jesus. As our faith community is not gathered together that Wednesday, there is a way to celebrate at home.

A tradition of a New Year's blessing for our church may be adapted for your home, and may happen on Twelfth Night (Jan 5), or on Epiphany of our Lord (Jan 6). Following an old eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be written and hung above your front door. Below is a brief liturgy, adapted from Sundays and Seasons Resources, that you could use.

Greeting words: *Peace be to this house and to all who enter here.* A reading from Proverbs 24:3-4. A second reading is from John 1: 1-4, 14 & 16.

The **visual blessing** is as follows: 20 + C M B + 21 + +. It can be read, as follows, as you are putting this banner up. *The magi of old, known as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar followed the star of God's son who came to dwell among us, two thousand and twenty-one years ago. Christ bless this house, and remain with us throughout the New Year.*

Then this **Prayer of Blessing:** *O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. Bless this house and all who enter here, with your gracious presence.*

May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then a **hymn:** *We Three Kings of Orient Are* – from *With One Voice* 646 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1ZOGTPsxng> followed by a cup of tea and of course some cake!

This tradition is a reminder to us, that we too are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people. May God bless you and your families in 2021 and our faith community.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine

January Event Schedule

| DATE | EVENT |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sunday Jan 3 rd | Second Sunday of Christmas Pre-recorded Service of Word & Prayer available on YouTube |
| Tuesday Jan 4 th | 1:30—Zoom call with bishop Michael Pryse & Northern & Ottawa Valley Pastors |
| Sunday Jan 10 th | Baptism of our Lord—Epiphany 1 Pre-recorded Service of Word & Prayer available on YouTube |
| Thursday Jan 14 th | Ottawa Valley Pastors Meeting (ZOOM) |
| Sunday Jan 17 th | Epiphany II—Pre-recorded Service with Holy Communion available on YouTube |
| Sunday Jan 24 th | Epiphany III—Pre-recorded Service of Word & Prayer on YouTube |
| Monday Jan 25 th | Church Council Meets |
| Sunday Jan 31 st | Epiphany IV—Pre-recorded Service of Word & Prayer on YouTube |

PRAYER LIST



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



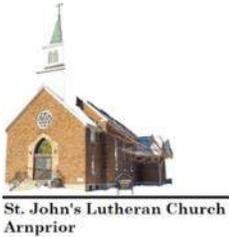
From both congregations: Chris & Kathy, Ed & Rosemary, Lucas and family, Fred, Gladys, Joe & Shelley.

Friends of the Parish: Annie, Joan, Leslie, Ron K., Tere B., Lorraine, Barb L., Jodie, Diane D. & family, Claudette, Gilbert and Mary A.

We pray for all those who are the first people to receive the vaccine for Covid.

Bless you for believing in the power of prayers.

If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.



Council Meeting Minutes

December 14th 2020

Attendance

Randy Zimmerling
Cory Weckwerth
Alison Burkett

David Burkett
Enid Blackwell

Pr. Norine
Jeff Kargus

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 and Pastor opened with devotions and a prayer.

1. Budget 2021: Alison presented the draft 2021 budget. Council agreed with the basic elements. Alison to refine into final version for the January meeting. (Alison left meeting)

2. Pastor's report:

Pastor presented her report.

3. Finance:

Randy presented the P&L, and Balance Sheet. Over the same period last year, offerings are up 6% and expenses are down 5%.

4. Previous Minutes

Dave to send out and request email approval of the November minutes.

5. Communications:

ENID: 40 facebook posts. Enid continues to post a wide variety of information, Randy commented on the large variety of facebook posts and links.

Dave: presented status of YouTube views – we are averaging a total of 37 people attending worship (20 live and 17 via YouTube). There was discussion around music licenses – it was decided to purchase the CCLI license with streaming.

6. Outreach:

The SnakPak grant was received. The chicken drive netted \$860 – 43 chickens were given to the food bank.

7. Property Update: Organ is getting tuned this week. The furnace was inspected. One furnace identified as a candidate for replacement on a wait and see basis.

8. Council Documents: Randy has produced a number of documents to help council in planning. Service Cancellation Procedures have been documented. Transition plan development is ongoing. Job descriptions have been updated.

9 New Business:

- Jeff moved that: Council adopt a policy that future AGM's and other council meetings can be held virtually at council's discretion, Cory seconded, CARRIED
- Randy led a discussion on Council membership which resulted in the following motions:
- Jeff moved: That Enid assume the Interim Chair position effective immediately. Seconded by Cory. CARRIED
- Jeff moved: That Council will nominate Enid as a candidate for the Chair position at the AGM. Seconded by Cory. CARRIED
- Enid moved that: "The November motion to appoint Alison as treasurer effective January 1, be amended to add that Alison have a voice at council and a vote on financial matters." Seconded by Cory. CARRIED
- Randy expressed the importance of technology (Zoom, conference calls, etc.) for council meetings in order to attract younger people to council. Dave will ensure that proper technology is in place to facilitate a variety of virtual attendance.

NEXT MEETINGS: Council: Jan 18th – AGM Feb 14th .

Adjournment: 8:55

Never Too Old to Live Your Dream

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being.. She said, 'Hi handsome. My name is Rose.. I'm eighty-seven years old. Can I give you a hug?'

I laughed and enthusiastically responded, 'Of course you may!' and she gave me a giant squeeze..

'Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?' I asked. She jokingly replied, 'I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, and have a couple of kids...'

'No seriously,' I asked. I was curious what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age.

'I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!' she told me.

After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate milkshake. We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this 'time machine' as she shared her wisdom and experience with me..

Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she reveled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up. At the end of the semester we invited Rose to speak at our football banquet. I'll never forget what she taught us. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her three by five cards on the floor. Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, 'I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for Lent and this whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in order so let me just tell you what I know.'

As we laughed she cleared her throat and began, ' We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy, and achieving success.

- *You have to laugh and find humor every day. You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die.*
- *We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it!*
- *There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn twenty years old. If I am eighty-seven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything I will turn eighty-eight. Anybody! Can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding opportunity in change. Have no regrets.*
- *The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets..'*

She concluded her speech by courageously singing 'The Rose.'

She challenged each of us to study the lyrics and live them out in our daily lives. At the year's end Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those months ago. One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep. Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.

These words have been passed along in loving memory of ROSE.

*Thank
You*

Our sincere, heart-felt thanks for all the sympathy, love & kindness extended to us following the loss of Jason (Jay) – a son, husband & father. It is truly comforting & helps ease the pain to be surrounded by so many good, caring people. Thanks again & God Bless.

Debbie, Bob, Miranda & Phoenix.



CAMP LUTHERLYN WISH LIST

The Camp is looking for donations of the following. These would help our 2021 budget.

- 8' step ladder (Feather light style for easy handling)
- 3-step step stool
- Leaf blower (Purpose: blow the needles off the 4-Season's roof; should be light enough to lift over shoulders; gas or electric are fine.)
- Wet Floor signs (we'd like 4 of them)
- Snow shoes (for winter rentals)
- BBQ (for Bancroft Cabin)

We'd also gratefully accept unwanted kayaks in good condition and a small gas motor for the boat.

ASTRONOMY CORNER with Andy Kalnins

Go outside at 9:00 in the morning on January 2nd. If it is not cloudy carefully look towards the sun and feel the warmth against your face. At that very instant, the earth and you will be the closest all year to the sun,; a mere 147,093,162 km away. The fancy word for this is perihelion. By contrast, this year we will be the furthest away from the sun on July 5th at 152,100,527 km. The fancy word for this is aphelion. Note that part of each word is “helion” which is based on the Latin word “Helios”. The sun was portrayed as a mighty charioteer riding across the sky from east to west east day and that figure was deified as the Sun God Helios.

Since we are evoking Roman Gods this month it is as good as time as any to revisit Mercury. The Roman God Mercury covered off eloquence, skill, trading, and thievery, as well as being the messenger of the Gods. But the planet Mercury is the planet closest to the sun, and is tiny; at only 4,878 km in diameter it is just a third larger than our own moon. Cratered, no atmosphere, no moons, day time times of plus 450 C and night lows of minus 275 C (at least there is no wind chill)

The thing about Mercury is the it hard to spot, so take advantage of the evening of January 10th. Just as the sun sets look at the south west; having binoculars is a huge help. Our old friends Jupiter and Saturn are getting lower and lower in the sky but will be visible. I have set up the configuration of how the planets will line up that evening;

So the trick is to wait until the sun sets and the sky darkens and the first stars come out. Make sure that the view of the horizon is uninstructed and clear. Look for the 3 star configuration in the picture above. Jupiter should pop out first, then Saturn, and finally Mercury. It is will be elusive, and a bit tough, maybe a bit like faith some days. But you will spot it!



Special Thank You for Our Technical Producer!

“What an opportunity he has given to us at a distance.” “What a terrific job your church community is doing with these worship service productions.” “So much self-taught video, sound, editing and broadcasting work has gone on over this time.”

These are the kinds of written and verbal comments we have heard about Dave Burkett’s excellent work as our a/v YouTube and equipment expert. And we have been asked to specially recognize these gifts at this time. So, heartfelt thanks to you, Dave, for the gifts of dedication, time, risk-taking and skill development you have given to us here and elsewhere, throughout these times and ongoing. A blessing to our small but connected community!

**OK, if we're
going to have
one-way grocery
aisles then I'm
going to need a
passing lane.**

January 2021

Happy Birthday!

January 3rd—Shaundra Craig

January 4th—Tessa Roberts

January 5th—Paul Mainprize

January 15th—Floss Obst

January 19th—Diane Boese

January 31st—Lynn Rosien

NOTICE

Annual General Meeting

St John's 2020 AGM will be held on **Sunday, February 14, 2021** following service and after a break time for travel home and/or personal snacks/refreshment.

Given the current, careful times we live in, we anticipate that this meeting will be primarily electronic via an internet meeting application, such as Zoom, with arrangements made for members without internet.

These arrangements are likely to include: seating in the sanctuary, safely distanced and masked, as we do when in-person worship is possible. Pastor Norine and some or all of church council expect to be present there, with similar precautions in place. We hope to use the 'big screen' as the means to bring in members in their homes, and via audio/visual camera equipment, bring members in the sanctuary to those in their homes.

Further details will be provided as we get closer to the date.

Should we be unable to hold the meeting on this date because of public health restrictions, the meeting may be delayed and alternate arrangements made.

Thank you all for your faithful membership, service and involvement!

Annual General Meeting Reports

Church council requests that all 2020 AGM reports be prepared and submitted by Friday, January 22. Submission in Calibri 11 font is preferred. Please direct to:

eblackwell.ca@gmail.com. Any brief, handwritten reports can go to: Randy Zimmerling, 613 623-9733.

Reports anticipated are: Chairperson, Pastor, Outreach, Inreach, Reopening Task Force, Communications, Audio/Visual, Property, Kitchen, Altar Guild, PAR, Lutherlyn, Financial.

We plan to distribute reports with the proposed agenda and the minutes of the 2019 AGM one week before the 2020 AGM via email and personal delivery.

Thank you for recording your caring work and service for 2020!

Animals' Christmas Thank You!

Dear Kalin, Zach, Blake, Nate and Clara:

Thank you so much for your excellent acting in the Animals' Christmas production, screened for the first time on Christmas Eve at St. John's Lutheran Church in Arnprior. Your voice over work was, bar none, the best those creatures have ever experienced.



An on-line service participant, Carol Ann Chippior, noted: "The small guys talking for the animals was especially outstanding. . . Everyone involved needs a very big pat on the back for such an amazing play. My grandson in Newmarket was a bit concerned how Baby Jesus was being tossed around in the manger. A good chance for mom and dad to explain how Jesus' entrance into the world was pretty rough."

Your play was much appreciated by the congregation in the sanctuary too, who were happy to hear your voices again. Such good work in telling this special story. Thank you, all! And of course, thanks as well to your agents and production and editorial assistants - aka 'your parents' - and the animals! The free-run big sheep, goats and chickens did a fine job.

We hope it won't be too long before we can be together again and hear you in person.

AS I WATCHED THE DOG
CHASING HIS TAIL,
I THOUGHT DOGS ARE
EASILY AMUSED.
THEN I REALIZED I WAS
WATCHING THE DOG CHASE
HIS TAIL.

Chickens in Support of The Arnprior & District Food Bank



Wow! Look at all those chickens

Together we donated \$860 toward the purchase of 43 great tasting, organically grown chickens for the Arnprior Food Bank.

Patricia Tait was very happy to accept the chickens from Pastor Norine. On behalf of the families receiving a Christmas food package this year, and the Arnprior Food Bank, thank you.

Your continued support and generosity are so greatly appreciated!

~ Jeff

if you ever get an
email about pork,
ham, salt, and
preservatives,
don't open it.
it's spam

Cool Funny Quotes.com



To the good people of St. John's

Thank you to the good people of St. John's for the thoughtful Christmas card and gift. I pray that we will all have a Happy and Hope-filled New Year in 2021! May God bless every one of you.

We all appreciate our **Altar Guild** team of ***Beryl & Keith Richardson, Barbara & Gerald Formuziewich*** and ***Joanne & Lorne Breztlaff*** for having the church sanctuary look so great for Advent and Christmas.

We also appreciate the creative work of ***Lynn Rosien*** who made 30 decorations for children for both St. Johns and St. James.

sincerely, Pastor Norine

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR January 2021

| DATE | USHERS | READING | ALTAR | COUNTERS |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Jan 3 rd | Cory Weckwerth | Joanne Breztlaff | Beryl & Keith Richardson | Mel & Marion Breztlaff |
| Jan 10 th | Cory Weckwerth | Mark Boese | Beryl & Keith Richardson | Mel & Marion Breztlaff |
| Jan 17 th | Cory Weckwerth | Joy Statham | Beryl & Keith Richardson | Mel & Marion Breztlaff |
| Jan 24 th | Cory Weckwerth | Andy Kalnins | Beryl & Keith Richardson | Mel & Marion Breztlaff |
| Jan 31 st | Cory Weckwerth | Maureen Rueckwald | Beryl & Keith Richardson | Mel & Marion Breztlaff |