



The Mustard Seed

January 2023

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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

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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

Church Council

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

King George VI gave the Christmas message of December 25, 1939. The Christmas message tradition had been started by his father, George V in 1932, but it was WWII that embedded it as an annual tradition in British hearts and minds.

George's wife Elizabeth, grandmother to King Charles, brought him a poem that had deeply touched her. George VI excerpted the first lines of the poem, "God Knows" (aka "The Gate of the Year") by Minnie Louise Haskins to illuminate the spiritual comfort he believed his subjects might seek." c - [From the National WWII Museum – New Orleans- USA- website – the King's Christmas Speech 1939.](#)

I recently found these same lines amidst my father's WWII memorabilia this past year.

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."

The point is no one knows what lies ahead except God, and God's not telling. I don't want to get into a discussion about premeditation, but I believe that God reveals his will for our lives in small increments, one day at a time.

We stand at the threshold of a new calendar year. Who knows what lies ahead and what effect anything will have on our personal lives or the life of our faith communities? We can't predict the future, but we can choose how we'll respond to it – we can worry about what's going to happen next, but why bother - as you can be confident and trust in God to lead the way. **MAY GOD BLESS YOU & YOURS IN 2023! HAPPY NEW YEAR**
sincerely, Pastor Norine

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

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

We pray for all who are dealing with chronic health issues.

Bless you for believing in the power of prayers. If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.

January 2023



BIRTHDAYS

January 3rd— Shaundra Craig

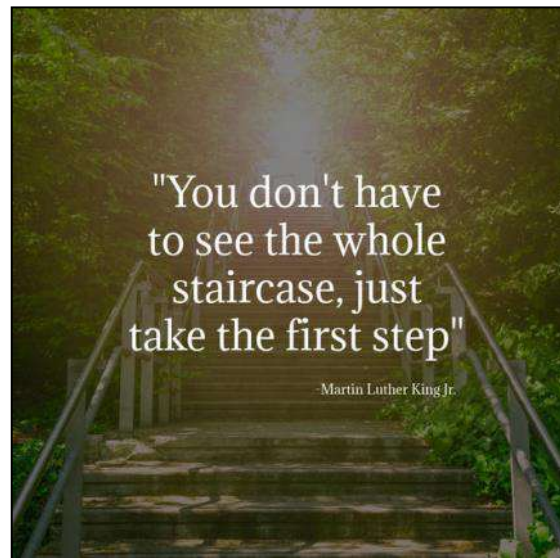
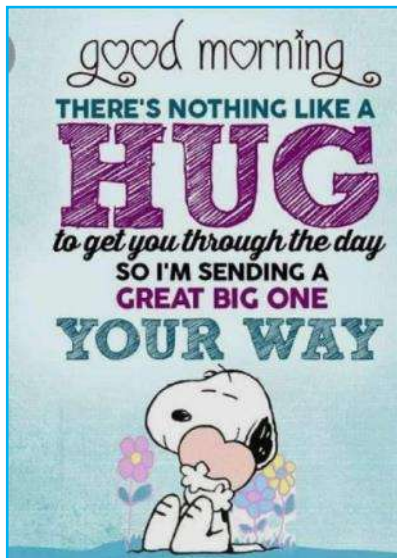
January 4th—Tessa Roberts

January 5th—Paul Mainprize

January 15th—Floss Obst

January 19th—Diane Boese

January 31st—Lynn Rosien



January 2023 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Sunday Jan 1st	10:30 a.m. Epiphany — Worship Service of Word & Prayer.
Thursday Jan 5 th	Prayer Team meets at 10a.m. every Thursday in Pastor's office.
Sunday Jan 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 a.m. Baptism of our Lord — Worship Service with Holy Communion. • <i>Coffee Hour after the service.</i>
Tuesday Jan 10 th	10:00 a.m. Renewal Team first meeting
Wednesday Jan 11 th	6:30 p.m. Peace Book Club—Arnprior Public Library
Thursday Jan 12 th	10:00 a.m. Area Pastors meet at St. John's-Petawawa
Sunday Jan 15th	10:30 a.m. Epiphany II — Worship Service of Word and Prayer.
Monday Jan 16 th	2:00 p.m. — Church Council meets.
Saturday Jan 21 st	9:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast—Jim's Restaurant.
Sunday Jan 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 a.m. Epiphany III — Worship Service with Holy Communion. • <i>Coffee Hour after the service.</i>
Sunday Jan 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 a.m. – 11:00a.m. Sunday School with Ryan & Julie Zimmerling. • 10:30 a.m. Epiphany IV — Worship Service of Word & Prayer
Monday Jan 30 th	2:00 p.m. Council Special Budget Meeting



Minutes of the December 19th, 2022 Council Meeting

Enid Blackwell

Pr. Norine

David Burkett

Attendance:

Debbie Witt

Randy Zimmerling

Andy Kalnins

Fred Steinke

Rachel Roesner (Zoom)

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

1. Pastor opened with a devotion and prayer.
2. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the November 28, 2022 minutes be approved as distributed. Andy seconded, **CARRIED**.
3. **Treasurer:** Recommended that a Treasurer elected by Council from membership have voice on all financial matters. Moved by Debbie, Seconded by Dave, **CARRIED**
4. **Finance:** Randy reported that year to date deficit has improved to \$7,863 as there are no large outstanding bills and continued increase in Dec. donations. Bazaar and Christmas appeal help significantly in reducing the deficit. We have had great support from our congregation. To keep members updated it was suggested to have quarterly statements in the newsletter. Report was accepted. Moved by Andy, Seconded Fred, **CARRIED**
5. **Property:** Vent drains installed in furnace pipes by Fred, installed insulation for large hot water tank, pipe organ tuned, stained glass windows just need silicone on cracks. Randy getting quotes to fix/replace windows in the back & pastor's office. Wood rotting etc. Plans/Upgrades: basement electrical sub panel; quotes on replacing red carpet & Pastor's office flooring and furnaces. Plan for handicap accessible washroom. Discussion of accessibility and rental:

Accessibility proposal:, 2 sources of grants: Trillium Foundation Capital Grands and Federal Enabling Accessibility Fund. Both will fund a significant part of the cost. Access to accessible washroom and space welcome to all is mandatory to get funding. Trillium application starts in July and federal in Sept/Oct. Ongoing research for different lifts, contractors etc.

Rental Income Proposal: Rental income plan proposed has been modified to a Studio Apartment which can be created from the Lounge and half of the Alicia St. entrance-way. There would be no zoning change. Council discussed possible rental and also Emergency Housing (EH) usage. With EH the government pays all costs and any damage while a client uses the space. There is need; helping people in crisis discussed as good use of space as well.
6. **Outreach:** Jeff joined by Zoom. 26 chickens were donated to Food Bank at a cost of \$449.(instead of projected \$1125 for chickens). Leaves \$775, originally allocated to Food Bank. Some \$900 for Food Bank from individual members, and \$1,000 grant coming from Synod for the FB Snack Pack program. Since the Food Bank is in good standing this year, Jeff suggested that the \$775 go to Canadian Lutheran World Relief, to be matched 4x, for Emergency Food needed in more urgent areas globally. In future we might consider donating to Hospice for Renfrew. Motion for \$775 to CLWR moved by Fred, Seconded by Rachel, **CARRIED** Jeff and Randy left meeting.
7. **Children and Youth:** Sunday School to start in January some time, projected 1x/month, and Christmas pageant planned.
8. **Pastor's report:** Ministry continues with home visits, calls, etc. Jan.15 Pastor will be off as well as Feb. 12, St. James AGM. Few attending Blue Christmas this year.
9. **Health & Safety:** COVID/Flu/RSV Protocols. No government requirements for masking. To leave it up to individuals. Socials can return in January. We need to adapt to the needs of those we serve and put the responsibility on the individuals.
10. **Operations matters:** Some uncovered historic records may be photographed by Dave before going to church Special Collections Archives, held and managed at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Continued over —>

Council Minutes continued,

- 11. Communications:** Steady Facebook presence, Pastoral Care/Deliveries continue for 11 households. PC team meets December 20 to prepare Christmas plate gifts and deliver. The ad for the Chronicle-Guide for Christmas Eve Service has gone in. Fellowship for Dec. cancelled and January will resume. Visioning & Planning 'Renewal Team' formed from membership and from council to gather and study some qualitative and mostly quantitative information in order to bring basic "stay" "leave" option (s) to congregation, likely at Annual Meeting time. Team: Jeff Kargus, Mellissa Watt, Beryl Richardson, Debbie Witt, Andy Kalnins, Enid Blackwell, P+ Norine.
- 12. Technology:** Dave stated it takes at least 2 ½ hours to prepare the service for streaming, plus P+Norine spends considerable time in prior preparation related to online availability. Discussion on reducing/stopping streaming, as we are one of the few doing so. Dave will bring other options to our next meeting.
- 13. Other Business:**
- a. Planning Cycle (through February).
 - b. Closing – Round Table and Prayer
- 14. Next meeting:** Monday, January 16 at 2:00 p.m.



USHERS to GREETERS!



A big thank you to all our ushering teams, now called 'greeters'. This name change suggestion came from within this group and all are happy to be called 'greeters' – a more welcoming term, used by many faith communities, and which better fits current duties.



Envelopes and Receipts for Income Tax Purposes

Most of you have received your new envelopes for 2023 and beyond and likely noticed that they don't have dates on them. As was said in the insert, our aim is to reduce the amount of waste from the unused envelopes each year and be a little kinder to our environment.

Many of you already give once a month and occasionally add an extra offering for special events. In this case your box of envelopes will last approximately four years! You will keep the same number and you can always use the extra envelopes found in your pew, if necessary.

PAR users will keep their same number as last year, and so will others who give electronically via Canada Helps or e-Transfer.

We hope to have your receipt for income tax purposes ready by the end of January. If you received your receipt via email last year, we would email it again this year unless you specify otherwise.

Thank you for your continued support of St. John's, Arnprior!

Cathy Zimmerling, Financial Secretary



NOTICES



Please provide any written reports for our **2022 annual meeting by January 29, 2023** if possible to: Enid (by hand), or to both Enid (eblackwell.ca@gmail.com) and Debbie Witt (bkwdwitt@hotmail.com) by email. Any questions, please contact Enid, 613 623-7017. These reports will help with preparation of the full report for our Annual Meeting. Thank you!

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.

Council expects to confirm our Annual Meeting date later this month; it is likely to be in early March.

Peace Book Club

Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. Arnprior Public Library

You are welcome to join others in discussing the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Read a speech or check out a biography. . . or just come to listen in and reflect.

UPDATE: VISIONING AND PLANNING OUR FUTURE

RENEWAL TEAM



As noted in the December Council minutes, a team has now been formed to consider options for our future.

This long-term planning team, called the **Renewal Team**, includes both membership and council members: Beryl Richardson, Jeff Kargus, Mellissa Watt, Debbie Witt, Andy Kalnins, Pastor Norine and Enid Blackwell. The team begins its work this month; they will gather and study current information and projections in order to bring a report and options on to council. Council hopes to present options to the congregation before or at the Annual Meeting in February or March.



Might You Have a Key?

We would like to update our list of who has a church door key. This list has not been updated for some time and you may have passed your key on to someone else who needed one and you yourself no longer needed it. If you do have a church door key (or keys) in your possession could you email Debbie Witt at bkwdwitt@hotmail.com or phone (613) 622-1500 with the key number on the key. Thank you for helping in this project.

thank you



Jacqueline Bertrand, who has ongoing health challenges and lives with and is cared for by daughter Ruth Ann McKie and family, wishes to send a special message to all of St. John's people. Jacquie extends heartfelt thanks for all the care shown by P+ Norine and the deliveries and gifts of other pastoral caregivers. She is most grateful to be remembered in prayers: in prayers of the people, by the Prayer Team, and all who think of her.



Our sanctuary and altar is always adorned with appropriate decorations no matter what the season.

We thank the **Altar Guild Team**, Beryl & Keith Richardson, Barbara & Gerald Formuziewich, and Joanne & Lorne Bretzlaff for their ministry and their gift of new 2 stars - tree toppers for our 2 Christmas trees.

Dear Faith family,

Thank-you for your generous gift to me at Christmas time. It is very much appreciated and will be put to good use. I am very thankful for all of your support for "our" ministry here.



*"Life is never measured
by the years
through which you live,*

*But by the kindly deeds you do
And all the cheer you give!"*

... from Heart Gifts - Poems of Joy By Helen Steiner Rice

sincerely, Pastor Norine

thank you



Lynn Rosien is our Master Craftsperson and created almost 30 cupcakes (decorations) for the children of St. John's & St. James which were handed out on Christmas Eve. Thank you very much Lynn, for your time and talent!

Photo courtesy of Enid



We thank **Ryan & Julie Zimmerling and 10 children** who led the way into the story of the birth of Christ as part of our Christmas Eve Service. Even though the weather was iffy, we had 66 people attend that service plus 10 children.

Photo courtesy of Lorne R.

Four days before Christmas, the **Pastoral Care Team** made up 12 treat plates that were delivered to seniors in nursing homes, or living alone. These Cookie Elves were: Lois Rosien, Beryl Richardson, Debbie Witt, Enid Blackwell and P+Norine.



Once again, in December and January, we give thanks for the beautiful nativity figurines created and painted by **Gladys Buder** many years ago. This was the scene Christmas Eve, and more figures were added for Epiphany. Thanks for your gift, Gladys!

Photo courtesy of Enid



Thank you to those families who donated beautiful poinsettias in memory of loved ones.

Gwen Steinke in memory of Ed Steinke

Ed & Carol Chippior

Gerald & Barbara Formuziewich

Vicki Weichenthal

Marion Koops in memory of Bill Koops

Photo Corner
(thanks to Lorne R.)

December 4, Maeve and Naveah
with Rhonda and Jessica McTeer



Rory and Mellissa, Advent 4, Dec. 19th

Phoenix and Bob Light the Advent
Wreath, Dec. 24th



For the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*

It is no secret, if you examine the evidence,
that what passes as god,
has too often been used as a sword
And now, as I write this, there are
those who say Jesus,
to hawk guns
Who see the devastation
of the earth a highway
to salvation
It takes time to sort out the laundry,
the papers that reproduce, the expired
condiments
the beliefs you once held dear
To winnow down to what is
nourishing, nurturing,
necessary

What if, at the start, the
biggest bang,
there is only love?
And our job,
our only job, is to
find our way back?
What if, wherever we looked,
we saw
light?
In us too, reflected in
the mirror, not flaws and follicles
but beauty?

*Inspired by the book Do I Stay Christian?

Christmas Chickens for families in our community

A cart full of chickens!



Thanks to the generosity of our Congregation we were able to provide 26 organically grown chickens to the Arnprior Food Bank from the family farm of Ryan and Julie Zimmerling.

A chicken was included in the Christmas Baskets being handed out to families this Christmas Season.

Patricia Tait (A/Manager) and Karen Graham (Board Member) were very pleased to accept the chickens from the “good people of St. John’s Lutheran Church.”

On behalf of the families receiving a Christmas basket, and the Arnprior Food Bank, thank you.

Zoomerang

“Possibly due to a technical error, I seem to be getting someone else’s comeuppance.”

ILLUSTRATION: J.B. HANDELSMAN/THE NEW YORKER COLLECTION/THE CARTOON BANK (PRAY)

OH, WE GOT RID OF THE HOT COALS YEARS AGO AND SWITCHED THEM OVER TO LEGO PIECES...

© 2016 UPS, One, Polaris and Lockhart/UP

NO, ALEXA... I SAID ORDER LUNCH

SORRY

THE ENUNCIATION APOCALYPSE

“Okay, even if I accept your story that you dug up this ancient Big Chief tablet fragment with 2nd century crayon text, I don’t believe Jesus was ever recorded as saying “Parents, buy your kids whatever they wanteth.”

Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33) 01-04-20

PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER

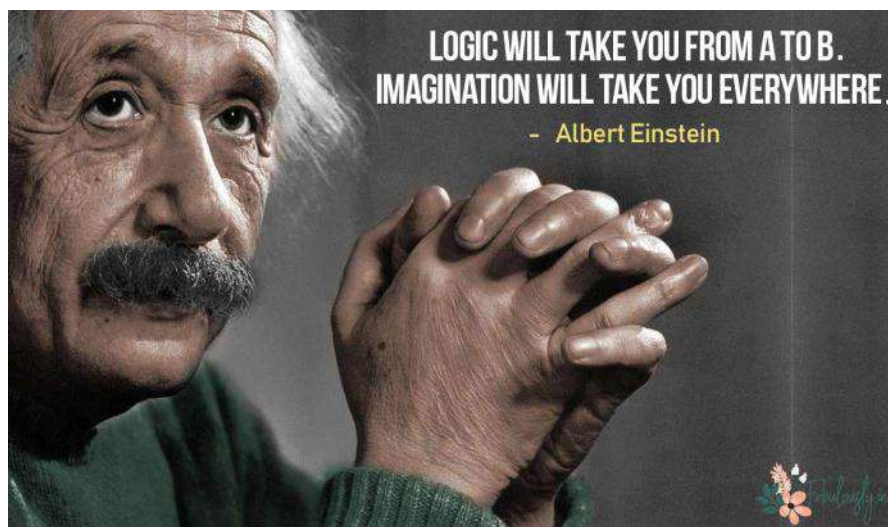
I FOUND A BOOK CALLED
HOW TO SOLVE 50% OF YOUR PROBLEMS.
SO, I BOUGHT TWO.

I found that I have been happier since I changed from coffee in the morning to orange juice. My doctor explained that it’s the vitamin C and natural sugars but I really think it’s the Vodka



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE JANUARY 2023

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL
Jan 1 st	Cathy Zimmerling	Barbara & Gerald	G, F, K Steinke	Elmer & Marion	
Jan 8 th	Andy Kalnins	Barbara & Gerald	G, F, K Steinke	Elmer & Marion	Joanne & Lorne
Jan 15 th	Council / Youth	Barbara & Gerald	G, F, K Steinke	Elmer & Marion	
Jan 22 nd	Debbie / Jeff Kargus	Barbara & Gerald	G, F, K Steinke	Elmer & Marion	Debbie & Bob W.
Jan 29 th	Maureen Rueckwald	Barb & Gerald	G, F, K Steinke	Elmer & Marion	



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