



The Mustard Seed

January 2022

The Monthly Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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

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See us on facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior



Pastor's Message

Dear faith family,

Traditionally the Christmas season lasts till Epiphany which we celebrate this year on Jan 6. We remember the story of the Magi, or the Kings, who followed the star in the east to find the baby Jesus in Bethlehem, to honor him with their gifts. The holiday is also sometimes known as Three Kings Day, or the Twelve day of Christmas. Many families in Canada wait till Jan 6 to take down their Christmas trees and decorations. Many others will leave lights up to cheer the winter nights.

We have had more news today of immediate public health restrictions. *Yes, it is disheartening.* I have always felt that we are dealing with an unseen enemy. It reminds me of stories my Dad used to tell me about WW2 as he served overseas in Britain and Holland. He talked of staying vigilant and yet one had to remain flexible to work through any challenges. A positive attitude was needed as well as integrity.

I feel grateful and fortunate that I live in Canada in 2022 with all the advantages of modern technology, and available supplies. I also take Dad's words to heart. That is, to **stay vigilant**, and yet **be flexible**. To **maintain a positive attitude** personally and have our churches **sustain their integrity** in their respective communities.

Our faith is extremely important too, as well as our personal prayer life. We believe in a God of hope! Even though gathering together is restricted again, knowing that you belong to a community of people and a Pastor that you can phone or turn to when your positivity level is low, is an important spiritual resource. *Please do not hesitate to use it.*

Finally from 1Corinthians 16:13 "Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong - let all that you do be done in love."

Sincerely in Christ, P+Norine

January 2022 Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT
Sunday Jan 9 th	Worship Service with Holy Communion—Pre-recorded service available via YouTube
Thursday Jan 13 th	Morning Zoom call with Ottawa Valley Pastors
Sunday Jan 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship Service of Word and Prayer—pre-recorded service available via YouTube • 10:00am Special council budget meeting via Zoom, followed by Council meeting
Thursday Jan 20 th	7:00-8:00pm Book Group discussion by zoom on Chapter 1 “DIRT” from the book Grounded by Diana Butler Bass (see ad elsewhere in this newsletter)
Sunday Jan 23 rd	Worship Service of Word and Prayer—per-recorded service available via YouTube
Sunday Jan 30 th	Worship Service with Holy Communion—pre-recorded service available via YouTube

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, Ernst & Marie Louise.

Please continue to pray for medical staff who are working during this 3rd wave of 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

December 15th, 2021

Attendance (ZOOM)

Enid Blackwell
Alison Burkett

David Burkett
Andy Kalnins
Rachel Roesner

Pr. Norine
Debbie Witt

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Enid led a round table talking about Christmas ornaments that are significant. Pastor opened with a devotion and a prayer.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Dave moved that the Nov 15th, 2021 minutes be approved as distributed, Debbie seconded, CARRIED.
2. **Finance:** Alison optimistic that we will break even. Decision to include an appeal at the end of the video telling people how to donate. It will run on the 19th and 24th. Benevolence obligation has been met. Alison moved that the Finance report be accepted, seconded by Andy, CARRIED. Alison moved that the Christmas offerings be directed to Current, seconded by Debbie - Carried. Discussion around the outreach amount be deferred to the January meeting or the AGM.
3. **Unplug** on the 12th had 6 or 7 kids, the birds cooperated. UNPLUG planning in January: Julie Z. and Alison to meet to discuss other farm/forest events – more focus on child-directed events.
4. **Pastor's report:** Pastor presented her activity report. Blue Christmas pre-recorded with 2 United clergy, for 6 congregations. Pastor on vacation December 26 through January 1.
5. **COVID Protocols:** Andy's suggestion that given no restrictions from Renfrew Health, we continue to plan for Christmas Eve. Seating plan is developed. No singing. Debbie outlined the registrations for Christmas Eve. 35 so far. No singing for the 19th. Contingency is to use the taped 26th service for Christmas Eve if in-person not permitted. Announce near capacity on the 19th. Debbie to call some regulars who have not yet reserved.
6. **Outreach:** Generous donations meant 81 chickens were delivered by Jeff Kargus to the Food Bank
7. **Communications:** Enid reported on Facebook activity 940 reaches. January newsletter deadline is Jan 6th. Christmas packages and cards being prepared and delivered to some members mostly confined to homes/residences.
8. **Operations resource:** Debbie to circulate the job duties and procedure documents to relevant people for updating.
9. **Tech and Property:** A new humidifier was installed.
10. **Other Business:**
 - **AGM timeline.** Planning for AGM date of Sunday 13th of March. Reports in by Feb 13th.
 - **Visioning Retreat:** Meeting of Task Force was held at end of November. Looking at April / May for the retreat. Task Force will need to meet again to plan for it.
 - **Email vote policy** – deferred to January
 - **Planning Cycle: was reviewed.**
 - **NEXT MEETING:** Jan 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Zoom. Budget working session and shortened meeting (update since December meeting).

Adjournment: 8:15 p.m.

Online but No In-Person Worship Services in January

We will have no in-person worship for St. John's until February at the earliest. This has been decided given current public health measures, the present contagious COVID pattern, county and provincial concerns and the recommendations from Bishop Michael to all parishes.

Pre-recorded, online services will continue. See your emails, our website or facebook for links. Thank you so much to, Pastor Norine, producer Dave, readers and altar guild for ongoing service participation.

More communication will go out by email and by phone/by hand if needed. Thank you so much for continued faithful support and safe participation in the community in different ways in these ongoing difficult times. Any questions, please contact Enid, 613 623-7017.

We include Bishop Michael's recent encouraging and thankful letter below.



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Message from Bishop Michael regarding COVID

Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 situation across our Synod continues to evolve on a near daily basis. Over the Christmas holidays we have seen the tightening of restrictions in all four of our provincial jurisdictions.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, I have urged you to do whatever is necessary to protect one another and safeguard the health and safety of our communities. We have done this as an act of love for, and a gift of service to, our neighbours. Twenty-one months later, this priority still stands.

To that end, and with the information we have today, **I feel that it is both prudent and responsible for Eastern Synod congregations to suspend all in-person worship services and other gatherings effective immediately and for a period of at least four weeks.** I commit to reviewing this advice and communicating an updated recommendation to you by the end of January 2022. Likewise, a decision regarding the Spiritual Retreats scheduled for the month of February will be made and communicated to you as soon as possible.

I remain encouraged by the resiliency and faithfulness with which our leaders and faith communities continue to engage these challenges. Your actions are a clear proclamation of the gospel that extend far beyond the brick and mortar limits of our physical buildings. I am deeply grateful and inspired by each of you.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if we can offer support to you in these days. In the meantime, please take a moment to check in with one another, support one another, and make use of the Resource Library which is available for your use.

I am praying for you, dear partners in ministry. May God bless and keep you.

Bishop Michael



God's Tech Support: view the video: <https://youtu.be/4wN39d8KDtA>

(for those without internet, the conversation was):

(One side of the conversation)

Agent: "Hello, God's Tech Support . . ."

"No, sorry He's busy" *eye-roll*

"How can I help"?

"Pandemic . . . Sure . . . Awful . . . Let's just check . . ."

"I see here we did send you some scientists and doctors . . ."

"And it looks like they've come up with some simple ways to help end the pandemic. Vaccines, Masks, simple stuff . . ."

"Ah, you don't trust them".

"And the reason?"

"Some politicians, podcast hosts and someone on Facebook said not to . . ."

"Ok, so let's see if I understand this correctly. There's a pandemic that's killed millions worldwide – You have the solutions to help end the pandemic but you . . . don't want to".

"Don't worry I think I know what the issue is . . ."

"You have, what we in Tech Support call a One D Ten T problem . . .".

"That's right . . . if you could just write that down: 1 D 1 0 T "

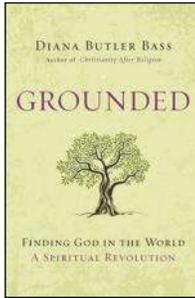
"(Chuckles) It DOES look like it spells "IDIOT". (Hangs up)".

Turns to his co-worker: "Hey I think we're gonna have to reboot Earth".



Pastor Norine leading Holy Communion worship, Advent IV, with our new Evangelical Lutheran Worship altar book, dedicated in loving memory of Stan Headrick. Thanks to Lorne Rueckwald for photo.

BOOK STUDY



You are invited to join Pastor Norine and the Unplug Team at 7pm on Thurs January 20th for a discussion about "DIRT" - Chapter 1 - 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. January 18th and she will email the link to you for the zoom chat. *Pastor asks this question: Did you ever "eat" dirt as a kid?*

Chickens in Support of The Arnprior & District Food Bank



Let's see. 1,2,3,...79,80,81. Now that's a lot of chickens donated to the Arnprior Food Bank!



Thanks to the generosity of our Congregation, we raised \$1145.00 which enabled us to purchase 81 organically grown chickens for the Arnprior Food Bank from the Ryan and Julie Zimmerling family farm.

A chicken was included in the Food Bank Christmas Baskets handed out to clients on Wednesday December 15th.

Patricia Tait and Margo Kealy were very pleased to accept the chickens from Pastor Norine and 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.***

Your support and generosity year over year are greatly appreciated!



~ Jeff

Twas the night before Christmas, but Covid was here,

So we all had to stay extra cautious this year.
Our masks were all hung by the chimney with care
In case Santa forgot his and needed a spare.
With Covid, we couldn't leave cookies or cake
So we left Santa hand sanitizer to take.

The children were sleeping, the brave little tots
The ones over 5 had just had their first shots,
And mom in her kerchief and me in my cap
Had just settled in for a long winter's nap.
But we tossed and we turned all night in our beds
As visions of variants danced in our heads.

Gamma and Delta and now Omicron
These Covid mutations that go on and on
I thought to myself, "If this doesn't get better,
I'll soon be familiar with every Greek letter".

Then just as I started to drift off and doze
A clatter of noise from the front lawn arose.
I leapt from my bed and ran straight down the stair
I opened the door, and an old gent stood there.

His N 95 made him look pretty weird
But I knew who he was by his red suit and beard.
I kept six feet away but blurted out quick
" What are you doing here, jolly Saint Nick?"

Then I said, "Where's your presents, your reindeer
and sleigh ?
Don't you know that tomorrow will be Christmas
Day? ".

And Santa stood there looking sad in the snow
As he started to tell me a long tale of woe.

He said he'd been stuck at the North Pole alone
All his white collar elves had been working from
home,
And most of the others said "Santa, don't hire us!
We can live off the CERB now, thanks to the virus".

Those left in the toyshop had little to do.
With supply chain disruptions, they could make
nothing new.
And as for the reindeer, they'd all gone away.
None of them left to pull on his sleigh.

He said Dasher and Dancer were in quarantine,
Prancer and Vixen refused the vaccine,
Comet and Cupid were in ICU,
So were Donner and Blitzen, they may not pull through.

And Rudolph's career can't be resurrected.
With his shiny red nose, they all think he's infected.
Even with his old sleigh, Santa couldn't go far.
Every border to cross needs a new PCR.

Santa sighed as he told me how nice it would be
If children could once again sit on his knee.
He couldn't care less if they're naughty or nice
But they'd have to show proof that they'd had their shot
twice.

But then the old twinkle returned to his eyes.
And he said that he'd brought me a Christmas surprise.
When I unwrapped the box and opened it wide,
Starlight and rainbows streamed out from inside.

Some letters whirled round and flew up to the sky
And they spelled out a word that was 40 feet high.
There first was an H, then an O, then a P,
Then I saw it spelled HOPE when it added the E.

"Christmas magic" said Santa as he smiled through his beard.
Then suddenly all of the reindeer appeared.
He jumped into his sleigh and he waved me good-bye,
Then he soared o'er the rooftops and into the sky.

I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight
"Get your vaccines my friends, Merry Christmas, good-night".
Then I went back to bed and a sweet Christmas dream
Of a world when we'd finished with Covid 19.



A Christmas message from Bishop Michael Pryse

“The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” As a child, I was always mystified by this line from the carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem. I understood something of the hope of Christmas. But what role could fear possibly play in the wondrous and beautiful story of the first Christmas?

But in time, I learned. I learned something about the fear of a young mother about to bear her first child, under far from normal circumstances, alone in a cattle shed. I learned about the fear of a poor father unable to provide his family with proper shelter. The fear of simple shepherds startled by the unexpected appearance of heavenly emissaries. The fear of a jealous and vengeful king whose terrors would soon force the young family to flee to a distant land as refugees.

Hope and fear did, indeed, meet on that first Christmas night. And they’ve been meeting there ever since! And for most of us, that will again be the case this year. But fear cannot get the final word for this Christmas any more than it did for the first! Despite our quite understandable anxieties and fears, it is not a message of fear, but rather one of hope, that we will again proclaim and celebrate this Christmas – and perhaps with a deeper integrity than might be the case under less challenging circumstances.

At Christmas we celebrate a God who loves creation so intensely that he chose to enter into the very heart of our creaturely existences, for good or for ill – not just one day of the year – but for all three hundred and sixty-five!

Fear not, dear friends. The light of Christ’s presence still shines bright. It is the light of divine hope, a light that casts out fear and scatters the darkness.

Fear not! Christ the Saviour is born!

. . . Bishop Michael Pryse

Symbols of Christmas and Silent Night

Our Christmas Eve worship, online and in-person, included a video from St. John’s children and youth, which brought us much joy. Thank you, so much, Zach, Blake, Nate, Clara, Kalin, Rory, Jacob and Sawyer for your great messages, participation and singing. It was a fine gift and so good to see you all ‘on screen’. Special thanks to all moms and dads, too, and to Zimmerling dad Ryan for getting you all together.

Wishing you and all your families a happy and safe New Year.



thank you

Many thanks to **Lynn Rosien** who created 30 miniature Santa hat decorations for all our children at St. John's & St. James.



We all appreciate the detail and care that our **altar guild** takes in preparing our church for the Christmas season. It looked wonderful! Thank you to **Gerald & Barbara, Beryl & Keith, and Joanne & Lorne** for your ministry.



Pastor Norine was on holidays from Dec 25 till Jan 2. We were very grateful to **Rev. Stan Johnstone** who covered both churches for pastoral care during her absence. Pastor Stan attended to Albert "Ab" Miller's (83yrs) private family funeral on Dec.27 and to Marion Mann's (95yrs) funeral on Jan 4. Both obituaries may be found on the Boyce Funeral Home website.



Thank you to the good **people of St. John's** for your generous gift to your Pastor at Christmas time. Your support for our ministry together and the care and concern for your Pastor mean a lot to me. I am very honored and grateful, sincerely P+Norine



It's time to give a 'shoutout' to someone who is not just a weekly, monthly or seasonal volunteer. For close to 2 years, during pandemic times, **Gerald Formuziewich** has done daily walkabouts of our building early in the morning, checking to ensure all is well there, and with our mailbox, too. And taking action as needed. (And he, and Barb, contribute otherwise, as well.) Thanks so much for this important, daily work! So necessary and appreciated, Gerald.



January 2022



BIRTHDAYS

Jan 3rd—Shaundra Craig

Jan 4th—Tessa Roberts

Jan 5th—Paul Mainprize

Jan 15th—Floss Obst

Jan 19th—Diane Boese

Jan 31st—Lynn Rosien

Dear Jeff Kargus,
St. John's Lutheran Church.

Thank you for participating again this year in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child, Shoe Boxes.

So many children in far-off countries will be blessed by the shoe box gifts. They will also have the opportunity to hear that Jesus loves them!

What great joy we have to be part of this endeavor.

Blessings in 2022

Cathy Stevenson,
Drop-off leader,
Glad Tidings Church.



SAVE THE DATE!
SAT. JANUARY 22, 2022
9 AM - 1 PM
ONLINE CONFERENCE
COST: \$20

WOMEN OF FAITH

**THE GALILEE CENTRE OF ARNPRIOR
INVITES WOMEN OF ALL FAITHS TO JOIN IN
A MORING OF WORSHIP, PRAYER,
LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP.**

Worship Litany Lead by Rev. Heather Kincaid and Jan Bentham
Keynote Speaker Donna Naughton of Kateri Native Ministries

Visit www.galileecentre.com/women-of-faith-online-conference/
to register and see more details as available.

GREATGRAND GOALIE!

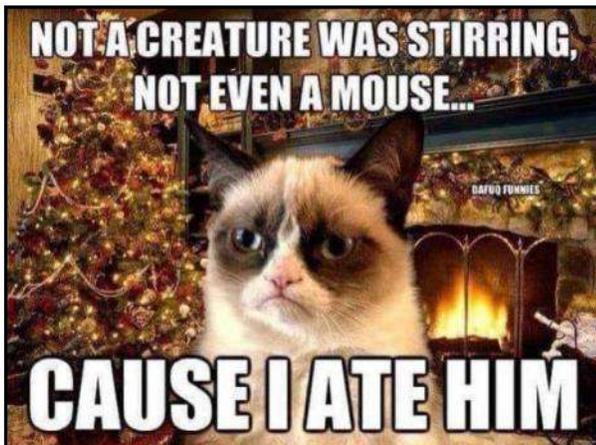


Hello my name is **Ava McMillan** and I am the girl you possibly have heard about from my Gran & Poppa (Lois & Henry Rosien). I am their oldest great-grandchild, being 11 years old-almost 12 and now there are 8 of us “great” people in the family. I live in Woodlawn with my parents – Jenn & Brooks and my little sister Addy. For the past 6 years I have been playing competitive hockey, with the last 4 1/2 years as goalie. My team is called the Kanata Rangers and we play in and around the Ottawa area. We have gone to some tournaments on the weekends and have come home with gold medals. My sister Addy is learning to play hockey as well this year. Well, off to hockey practice again I go... Happy New Year’s everyone!

Hi my name is Jacob Elliot. I have a brother and his name is Sawyer. My Mom’s name is Jessica and my Dad’s name is Rob. And I have two awesome grandparents who live really close by. Their names are Randy and Cathy. I was born in Thunder Bay and when I was pretty young I moved to Nepean, and then to White Lake, and that’s where Sawyer was born. I really like to play tag, and I like to play hockey a lot. And we wouldn’t be playing hockey without our neighbour Mr. Wallace, because he has been letting us play on their pond. I am sad because people are dying from COVID, but I am happy that I get to stay home a lot and play lego and read (reading is one of my favourite things).



I like St. John’s Lutheran Church because I learn about God and Jesus and prayers. My favourite prayer that I do before supper is, “God is great, God is good, let us thank him for our food. Amen.” But me and Sawyer usually say, “dig in” after “Amen”, too, and everyone thinks that’s kind of silly. I hope to do more of going to Ryan’s and having fun there and learning about stuff.





Annual Meeting Reports

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 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.

Council expects our Annual Meeting to be held in March this year; date and time to be confirmed taking into account any needed public health measures at that time.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2022

DATE	READING	ALTAR	USHERS	COUNTERS	BUILDING & GROUNDS
Jan 9	Andy Kalnins	Beryl & Keith	N/A	Joanne & Lorne	Gerald, Lorne and Randy
Jan 16	Debbie / Jeff Kargus	Beryl & Keith	N/A	Joanne & Lorne	Gerald, Lorne and Randy
Jan 23	Cathy Zimmerling	Beryl & Keith	N/A	Joanne & Lorne	Gerald, Lorne and Randy
Jan 30	Shaundra Craig & Kaleigh	Beryl & Keith	N/A	Joanne & Lorne	Gerald, Lorne and Randy