



The Mustard Seed

January 2024

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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

Church Council

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Debbie Witt (Sec'y)	622-1500
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Pastor Norine	623-4562

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

Message from the Chair

Irving Berlin, one of the most prolific song songwriters of the 20th century was feeling low, in fact he could not even sleep. Here is what Mr. Berlin wrote: *after the worst kind of a sleepless night, my doctor came to see me and after a lot of self-pity, belly-aching and complaining about my insomnia, he looked at me and said "speaking of doing something about your insomnia, did you ever try counting your blessings?"*

Irving Berlin sat down and wrote "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep" that was part of the iconic movie "White Christmas". As we enter 2024, it is easy to get a little despondent about the state of our little church. We are sometimes short on people, money, and even pastors. But take a moment, find Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney on the web, listen to the song, and make a list

Here is mine:

Pastor Norine

One of the prerequisites for sainthood is the ability to do miracles; things like levitation, mystical knowledge, and prophecy. So is bilocation - the ability to be in two places at once. Pastor Norine did perhaps technically not do that, but she came pretty darn close. Leaving Arnprior early on a Sunday morning, hoofing it up to Renfrew, leading service up there, rushing back to Arnprior. Both services were led wonderfully with no indication of the rushing about in all sorts of weather challenges.

We all know that Pastor Norine has been taking some time away. We welcome her return in 2024 with open minds and open hearts. All will unfold as it should, but we all know that bilocation or not, she is our saint.

Pastor Stan

Oh to be retired, having served church and country. Mornings of a quiet coffee and contemplation. The cassock and soutane are in the closet and the collar is unstarched. Until, until, until there is a call from the Bishop for a little fill in work. Just a few services at a couple of churches.

We have been so blessed with the return of Pastor Stan Johnstone to serve both Arnprior and Renfrew in leading services and providing pastoral care. There is no friend like an old friend. Can you imagine a Christmas Eve with a dark and quiet St. John's Lutheran? Pastor Stan did not let that happen and all who attended came home with hearts overflowing with Christmas Spirit.

Continued Over --->

Message from the Chair of Council, *continued*

Music

Springsteen cancelled Ottawa. KISS pulled out at the last minute. But never was there a musical desert at our church. The YouTube videos do not magically appear. They are hunted down, researched, and imbedded by Dave Burkett. We had keyboard virtuosos, Karen Prince, Lori Easton, Craig Burkett, and Lynne Zander provide music for us. The Children's Choir on Christmas Eve provided the most enthusiastic version of Little Drummer Boy that I thought possible. Lynne Zander at the organ had a tough act to follow, but she prevailed and we all had an outstanding Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Eve Flowers

Our altar was resplendent because of the following donations;

Keith and Beryl Richardson: Thank You! for the gift of the Advent wreath and candle followers, donated in memory of loved ones. (BTW - a candle follower is not something on social media, but a collar on the candle that follows it as the candle burns down)

Thank You! For contributions to Christmas flowers:

Mel & Marion Bretzlaff • Chippior family in memory of Henrietta • Glen and Randy Jahn
Karen Greening • Gwen Steinke in memory of Ed

Henry and Lois

Henry and Lois Rosien to be specific. but everybody knows that. Elsewhere there in this newsletter a more comprehensive tribute, but to me Henry and Lois were the ultimate love story. Romeo and Juliet, Wesley and Buttercup, nor Cleopatra and Mark Antony had nothing on these two. My best memory is in the years when they both had difficulty in navigating the steps up to the door of the church. They could not do it individually, but they could as a couple. Both supporting each other and working towards a common goal. That is true love and this to many is an elusive commodity. We were all blessed to see their abundance.

The People of St. John's

Stuff happens: Someone turns up the heat before service, someone stacks the tables and chairs, someone counts the money and gets it to the bank, someone reads at a service, someone greets people at the door, someone rings the bells, someone cuts the lawn, someone shovels the snow, someone chases bats, someone checks the furnace, someone fixes stuff, someone changes the alter linens, someone lights the candles (and extinguishes!), someone makes coffee and tea, someone locks up, someone issues tax receipts, someone organizes fundraising, someone , someone , someone is always there.

As Church Council Chair you receive many gifts, but perhaps the best of all is enhanced vision - the ability to see perhaps what you could not see before. To me it is the ability to see the width and breadth of our congregations. (I include Renfrew of course)

I have two predictions for 2024. The first is that there will be challenges, The second is that they will be overcome. We are the little church that can, and the little church that does.

The many blessings that I count are too many to put in such limited space, and I always forget more than I remember. But as the psalmist wrote in the 23rd psalm, "My Cup Runneth Over" and that is the best blessing of all.

Sincerely, Andy Kalnins

January 2024 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Fridays	1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge
Mondays & Wednesdays	6:00-7:00p.m. starting January 15 th —Movimiento Dharma—each Monday and Wednesday in the Hall
Sunday Jan 7th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word—Lay led
Sunday Jan 14th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service
Sunday Jan 21st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 a.m. — Joint Service with Renfrew • Bishop Michael Pryce visiting • Coffee hour follows in the Hall
Monday Jan 22 nd	1:00 p.m. Church Council Meets
Sunday Jan 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 p.m. — Worship Service • 10:30 — Sunday School



Bishop's Visit to St. John's

The Bishop now plans on visiting St. John's on **January 21st, 2024**. Please plan on attending so that we can give him a warm welcome.

Bishop Michael has announced his decision to not seek another term. The Synod Assembly on June 20-22, 2024 in Mississauga will elect a new Bishop as well as new Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our Congregation: Ed, Jacqueline, Paul, Rachel, Jeff Obst, June, Vicki, Samantha, and P+ Norine **and friends:** Tere, children Bri-ar and Alivia, George W., Lynne Z., Claude, Amy, Roy and Bob



January 2024



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

Christmas Eve Service



Gone but not forgotten

In December we said goodbye to church members—Lois and Henry Rosien. As long-term residents of Braeside, they were active in their community with Lois receiving special recognition for her contribution to serving seniors in the area. In addition, she could always be counted on to drive neighbours to town for shopping and doctors' appointments.

At church, they both were regular Sunday service attenders. Over the years Lois played a prominent role in our church's Sunday School, church council, and was the chief kitchen focus for many years where we enjoyed large church suppers and gatherings. Lois was also in charge of recognizing important milestones for senior members that included anniversaries and birthdays. She was the primary lay leader in ensuring that our shut ins (seniors and those sick in hospital and at home) were remembered both in Sunday prayers and by visits, and handwritten notes. Lois encouraged us all to think outside the box and could be counted on to bring our service to the community to the forefront in any discussion with a "why can't we?" challenge.

Henry assisted in various renovation projects at the church and parsonage over the years and solicited help from his "boys" in that effort when required. While being outdoors was indeed his passion, the church was also an important part of his life and he was a quiet and encouraging voice when needed.



We give thanks for their service to our community and their friendship and support to our church family.

To Bob, Sharon, Kevin, Lynn and the extended Rosien clan, we offer our sincere condolences in the sudden loss of both their parents. May God grant you comfort and peace in the days ahead.



Movimiento Dharma

is now offered each Monday and Wednesday in
the Hall

6:00-7:00p.m.

Come Join Us

"If you can't fly, then run,
If you can't run, then
walk, If you can't walk,
then crawl, but whatever
you do, you have to
keep moving forward."

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



"There are far,
far better things
ahead than any we
leave behind."

C.S. LEWIS



THANK YOU!



Thank you to Pastor Stan!

A special thank you to Pastor Stan for his continued support to St. John's recently. His leadership and pastoral care during Pastor Norine's absence was greatly appreciated! Also thanks to Andy, Enid, Jeff and others who stepped up to lead and coordinate worship services during this time frame as well. We are indeed fortunate to have multi talented lay

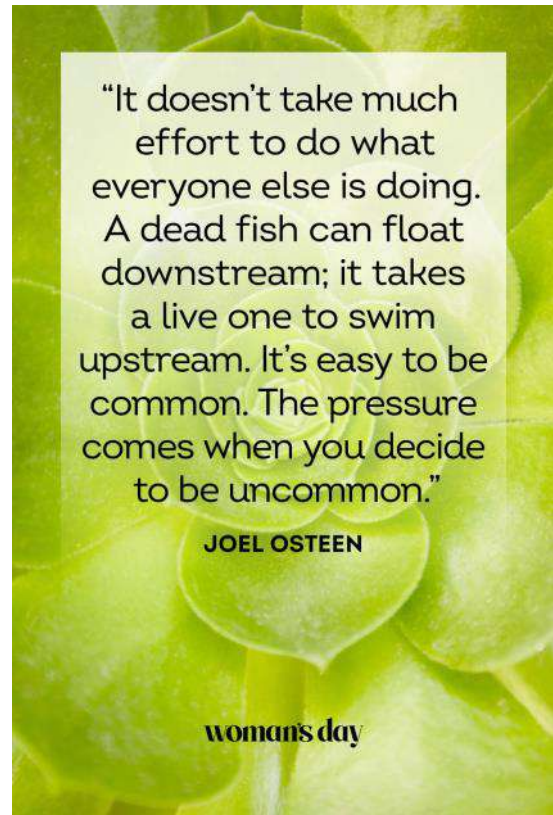
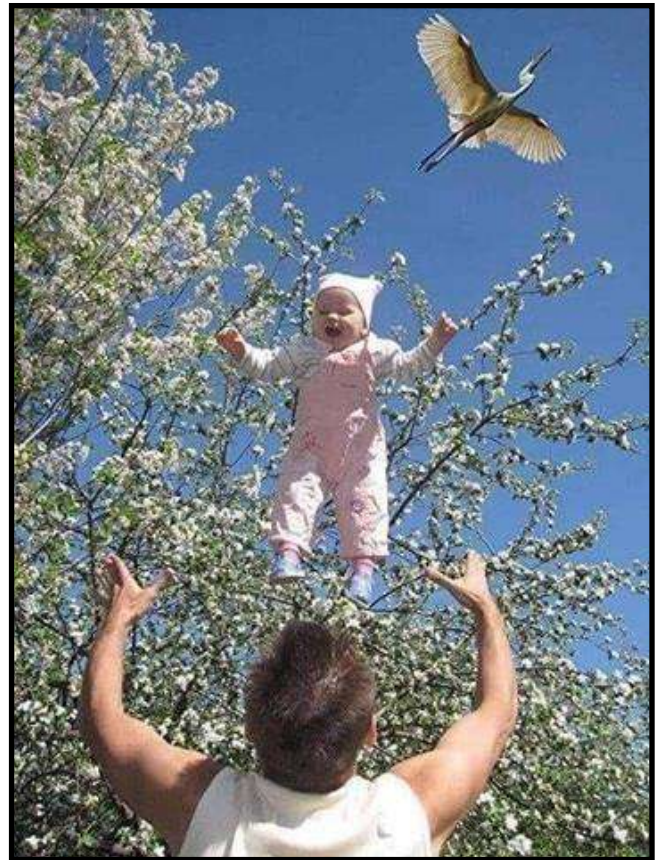
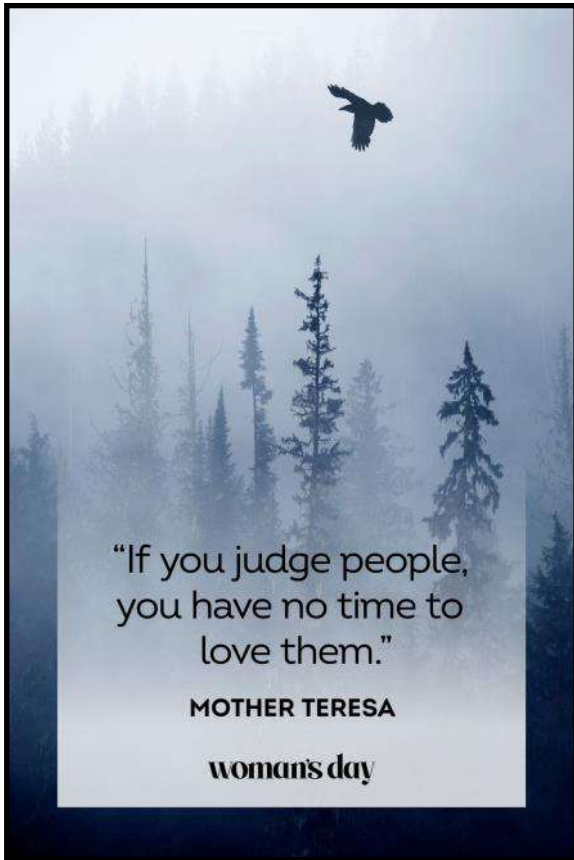
leaders in our congregation.

Thanks also to all the readers who participated in the lessons and carol service at the end of December. If you missed the service this year, you may want to note next year's service date as a reminder. All of the readers did an outstanding job with the selected lessons and the excellent carol music played by our guest organist Lorie Easton provided a memorable worship service. Well done to all involved.



Teachers Against Poverty

Thank you all for the fantastic support of this years Christmas Angel Tree fund raising efforts. One hundred percent of your donation will be given to "Teachers Against Poverty" (T.A.P) in support of Arnprior school nutrition programs which provide students in need with healthy food to eat.

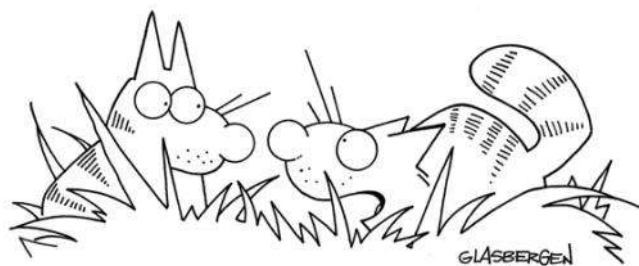




VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE January 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUN-TERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
Jan 7 th	Cathy Zimmerling	Barbara & Gerald	Andy & Cory	Andy & Cory		Cory
Jan 14 th	Debbie / Jeff Kargus	Barbara & Gerald	Andy & Cory	Andy & Cory		Cory
Jan 21 st	Andy Kalnins	Barbara & Gerald	Andy & Cory	Andy & Cory	Bishop Lunch (Council)	Cory
Jan 28 th	Jessica & Family	Barbara & Gerald	Andy & Cory	Andy & Cory		Jeff

Never seen anyone jogging and smiling, so that's all I need to know about that.



“The Lord causes me to lie down in green pastures because that’s where all the fattest mice are!”

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