



The Mustard Seed

July-Aug 2020

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

Randy Zimmerling	623-9733
Jeff Kargus	623-0192
Dave Burkett	618-5729
Cory Weckwerth	793-3701
Enid Blackwell	623-7017

Pastor's Message

Happy Canada Day 2020

What a great (hot) day! I drove out River Road to McGregors' Farm to purchase their delicious strawberries which is a July 1st tradition in our family. Driving along the river, I thought how blessed we are to be living in a great area of the Valley. Canadian flags dotted almost every property. We are celebrating our nation proudly and quietly this year.

All of our families arrived here as immigrants at one time or another. We have a diverse population with interesting languages, cuisine, and customs. We have health leaders and political leaders making the best decisions they can, at any given moment, for our safety, health and welfare. These are tough times and we are grateful for them, no matter what political party we may personally support. In the summer days ahead let us remember to pray for them too.

Let us also generously spread kindness around us. May we give a "cup of cold water" to whomever needs it. (see June 28 YouTube sermon)

While some of us are taking a break, our newly formed **Task Force Teams** will be reading documents and protocols to create recommendations enabling us to return to worship, in September, while reducing the risks of contact. Both churches have a team of highly qualified volunteers, willing to guide us into safe practices for our "new normal" form of worship. We thank them for their time and dedication to our faith families!

I pray that everyone has a restful and safe summer. Whatever journey you are on, inside your family and internally inside of you, that you remember that God is always walking alongside you - even when you can't sense him/her. I hope that you are able to get outside every day for a breath of fresh air; to enjoy the fruits of this season; and the rivers that we live beside. May God grace the lives of everyone reading this newsletter and protect you and provide for you.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine

"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

July-August Worship Schedule

DATE	LEADER	READER
July 5 th	P+Norine	Maureen Rueckwald
July 12 th	P+Norine	Cathy Zimmerling
July 19 th	Maureen Rueckwald	Shelley Gauthier
July 26 th	Maureen Rueckwald	Andy Kalnins
August 2 nd	Cathy Zimmerling	Joanne Thom
August 9 th	P+Norine Holy Communion	Mark Boese
August 16 th	P+Norine	Cathy Zimmerling
August 23 rd	P+Norine Camp Sunday	Mark Boese
August 30 th	P+Norine	Shelley Gauthier
	NOTES:	Pastor Norine is on vacation July 13- August 3 . Should you need pastoral care please call the church office & leave a message. A member of council will be retrieving messages. Rev. Cathy McCaig will be on call for emergencies. Pastor will be arranging another ZOOM evening chat in August.



PRAYER LIST



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

From the congregation: Ed P. & Rosemary D., Lucas R. & his family.

Friends of the Parish: *these people are relatives or friends of people in our parish.*

Leslie, Ron K, Tere B, Lorraine, Briar, Chris & Kathy T., Barb L., Brenda B., Joyce S., Rev. Andrew Love and the dedicated military personnel working in Toronto nursing homes, and essential workers everywhere.

Thank you for believing in the power of prayers. If you wish to add a name to this list please contact P+Norine.



Council Meeting Minutes

June 29th, 2020

Attendance (via phone Conference)

Ryan Zimmerling	David Burkett	Pr. Norine
Enid Blackwell	Jeff Kargus	Randy Zimmerling
Cory Weckwerth		

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 and Pastor opened with devotions and a prayer.

Previous Minutes:

Randy moved the minutes of the May 18th meeting be approved as published, Ryan seconded. **CARRIED**

Pastor’s report:

- a. Pastor presented her activity report for the month.
- b. Dave reported on estimates for additional Audio-Visual equipment required in order to be able to live stream our services once we are back in church.
- c. Pastor reported on the establishment of task forces to address the issues regarding returning to church. Their mandates will be to review existing documentation and guidelines (Public Health, & Synod), and make specific recommendations for the specific things that St. John’s needs to do to re-open and make a report to council.
- d. Randy moved that Pastor’s vacation July 13 to Aug 2nd be approved, Cory seconded: **CARRIED**

Finance:

- a. Financial position is very good – offerings up and expenses down from budget. All things considered we are in great shape – congregation has been very supportive.
- b. Still appropriate to continue to lobby for the changes to charity funding. Randy will send Dave the letter for congregation members.

Communications

- a. Enid presented her report on Facebook activity: 70 posts covering Prayers, Music, Services, Puppets, Poems, Photos and misc.
- b. Dave reported on YouTube postings: Since April 5th, we have put 7 services up on YouTube. On average, 24 households view each service.

Outreach:

- a. Jeff to start volunteering once per month at the food bank. St. Andrew’s has a garden project, with the proceeds to go food bank - Jeff is volunteering to tend garden. This might be an Idea for St. John’s at some point. Jeff to speak to Pat re: taking of photos and the grant application. Jeff is communicating with Bishop’s assistant re the Snak-Pak program and Jeff to write something up for the synod newsletter.

Property Update:

- a. Problems with neighbour’s dogs have decreased in frequency but still require some work prior to lawn cutting. Volunteers for yard clean up needed.
- b. Gerald F. is checking the building and grounds as required by insurance on an every 2nd day basis. Log sheet is in the balcony.

Other Business:

- a. Cory raised the possibility of outdoor worship. Something to be considered in later fall.
- b. Pastor wonders about a young adult position – applying for grant for funding for this.
- c. Randy resigning as treasurer effective Dec 31st.
- d. Jeff volunteered to cut the grass on Mondays.
- e. Enid: do we try to find a common DVD format? **Dave to research.**
- f. Ryan submitted his resignation as chair and from council effective immediately.

Adjournment: 9:40

July—August 2020



Birthdays



July 10th—Kalin Brohart

July 11th—Maxine Zimmerling

July 17th—Barbara Formuziewich

July 20th—Alison Burkett

July 29th—Marion Leek

August 4th—Zach Zimmerling

August 7th—Greg Steinke

August 25th—Mark Boese

Anniversaries

July 2nd—Jeff & Debbie Kargus

August 11th—Ryan & Julie Zimmerling

August 29th—Mel & Marion Bretzlaff



My grandmother once gave me a tip:

In difficult times, you move forward in small steps.

Do what you have to do, but little by little.

Don't think about the future, or what may happen tomorrow.

Wash the dishes.

Remove the dust.

Write a letter.

Make a soup.

You see?

You are advancing step by step.

Take a step and stop.

Rest a little.

Praise yourself.

Take another step.

Then another.

You won't notice, but your steps will grow more and more.

And the time will come when you can think about the future without crying.

Elena Mikhalkova

(Image of Tasha Tudor, American Illustrator 1915-2008)



Astronomy Corner—Andy Kalnins

We are just under 6 months away from the time that we read about the Bethlehem Shepherds being greeted by the celestial choir of angels, announcing the magnificent birth in the tiny little town below. Before the choir, and as the sky darkened, the shepherds would have seen the stars of the winter sky embedded in familiar friends like Orion and Taurus.

Here, in Renfrew County, if one awakens in mid July before the sun, they would see Taurus just rising above the eastern horizon. Venus, the Evening Star that brightened the western sky for most of the past winter, is now a Morning Star and is seen in the east. An hour or two before dawn it will be the brightest “star” in the sky; those with keen eyes will see it well into the morning twilight. But it will be especially worth looking at on July 12th as Venus will be enmeshed in the head of Taurus the Bull in the Hyades Star Cluster. It would be totally worth your time to look at this in binoculars and see this rich star field. When the light left this cluster, Canada was just barely a Dominion, when the light left the bright reddish star very close to Venus, I was just a babe in arms (hint: I was born in 1955!) I will write more about the winter stars when it is closer to winter but it is interesting to see that they are already starting to peek around the corner! (And for those that can’t wait; the bright star is called Aldebaran.) Also, if you an early riser on July 17th, you will see a slender waning crescent moon parked right next to Venus!

If early mornings are not your thing, Jupiter is your friend this month. Our biggest planet, or as Gustav Holst calls it in his music “The Planets”, the "Bringer of Joviality”, rises in the south east just as the sun sets. It will easily be the brightest thing in the night sky except for the moon and Venus. On July 14th it what astronomers call “opposition.” That means that this night, the sun, the Earth, and Jupiter are lined up in a straight line. Jupiter is closet to the earth and at its brightest.

A bit to the east of Jupiter (7 degrees, or the distance covered by the three middle fingers of your outstretched hand) , you will see a dimmer star with a yellow hue. That is the planet Saturn, which Gustav Holst calls the "Bringer of Old Age". Saturn has its day of opposition on July 20th. It will be at its brightest and closest this night.



Neither Jupiter and Saturn are that spectacular in binoculars. But in a small telescope you can easily see four of Jupiter’s Moons and the Rings of Saturn. Maybe one day when we are past COVID we can having a viewing party. But until that day, remember the shepherds; they saw all the wonders just because they took the time to just look and seek.



Thank You!

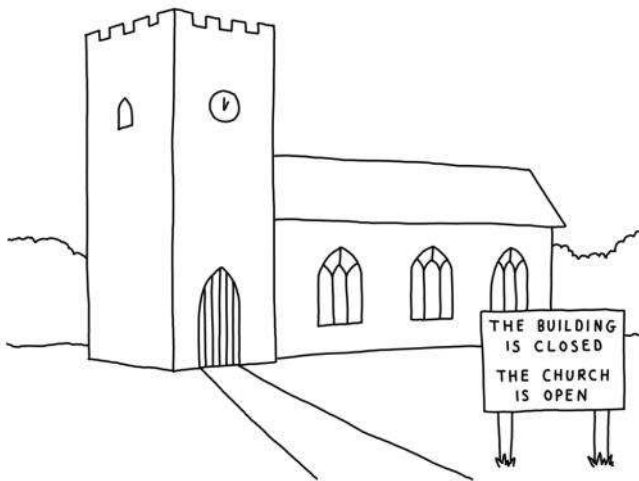
A Thank You note from Eric Obst

Many thanks to all who called Eric on his birthday in June. He said he had 16 phone calls! He thoroughly enjoyed hearing from many people!

A special treat was to hear from 4 of his Confirmation Class; Lynn Rosien, Charlene Homer, Alana from Alberta, and one person from the Jahn family.

These calls made his day he said.

P+Norine



CartoonChurch.com





Handmade Wooden Crosses

If you would like a wooden cross for your sacred space at home, please contact:

- Lorne through: joanne.breztlaff@gmail.com or call 613-623-5729 or
- Mel through melmarion7460@gmail.com or call 613-623-7460.

Pictured is the one that Pastor Norine used for worship on June 28th. Lorne & Mel will make one similar to this one, using the tools and facilities of the **THE MEN'S SHED**.

Please leave a donation with these men - to **Seniors Active Living Centre** as they sponsor the Men's Shed. You will receive a receipt.

Thanks, P+Norine



Class of 2020



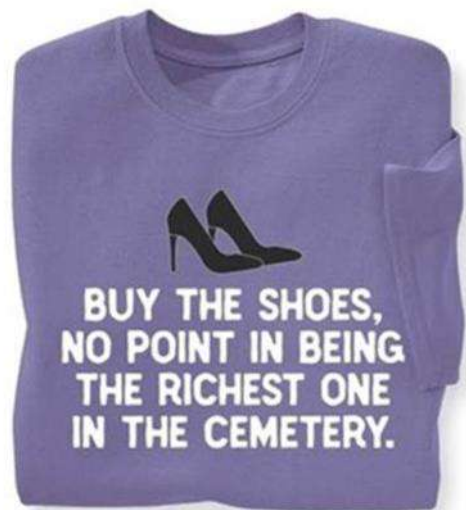
Callum O'Neill graduated from Grade 12 in Belleville this June. He is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Belleville.

Callum has been practicing rugby at the Castaway Wonders Rugby Club & the Pacific Pride Rugby Academy.

He presently has a work position as an apprentice at Allide Electric & Communications.

However Callum is leaving July 27 for Victoria B.C. to play rugby there.

proud grandparents are Beryl & Keith Richardson





CAMP LUTHERLYN UPDATE —July 2020

JOIN US AT FAMILY WEEK: August 2 to 7



A “golden” beach. A floating island. A new dock. Canoes.
 130 acres of pine forests. Wide open spaces. Camp fires.
 A place to relax. A place to play.
 A place to pray and worship.
 Archery. Volleyball. Horseshoes.
 The forecast for August is warmer than normal.
 Stay cool, meet new friends and have fun at Family Week!



Our 8 Bunk Cabins allow for 10 family units.
 Two cabins are split and are available as half bunk rentals.
 Alternately, families can choose premium accommodation for an extra charge: a bedroom in the Four Seasons Lodge, Rephael Cabin with its own washroom and new deck, Shepherds Staff - a “duplexed” cabin each with a bedroom and sitting room or Bancroft Cabin right on the beach!



And Daryl, our Camp Cook, will be the chef for the week.

To register go to: <https://www.lutherlyncamp.ca/programs/adult-family-programs/> and complete the Family Week Rental Request Form.

The Board of Directors has identified ways to keep everyone safe:

- Each family will have their own living space (cabin or bedroom at Four Seasons).
- Meals are served in the dining hall with a dedicated table for each family, with appropriate distancing. Serving is done by Kitchen staff and traffic is one way through the hall.
- Additional sanitization procedures will be in place.
- Appropriate physical distancing will be maintained during all group activities.

OTHER RENTAL INFORMATION

Camp Lutherlyn – Four Seasons, the Main Camp, and the premium cabins (Rephael, Shepherds Staff and Bancroft) – is open for rentals for a family, a family bubble, or larger groups. (We hold a “resort status” under Public Health rules.)

Similar to Family Week, distancing is provided between tables in the Dining Hall; we’ve set up procedures for use of shared facilities; additional sanitization will be done upon request by our professional cleaners.

Please email us at lutherlyncamp.ca@gmail.com to talk about how Camp Lutherlyn can be your retreat this summer. COVID-19 pricing is in effect for the Four Seasons Lodge and the Main Camp. After the extended lockdown period, we want to make it feasible for as many people as possible to get away to lovely Camp Lutherlyn on Golden Lake!



Stay well. Take care of others. Find the silver linings in this time together.

Re-opening Task Force Team 2020 for St John's

At the June 29th Church Council meeting, the council approved all the names below.

I am pleased to introduce them all to you. P+Norine

Safety/Logistics:

Team Lead: Lorne Rueckwald: bringing to the team the following qualifications from years at Arnprior Aerospace Inc.: Full Certification as Co-chairman of the Joint Health & Safety Committee. Vice President & Chief Shop Steward of the International Association of Aerospace Union.

Andy Kalnins: the Government Market Manager for MSA Safety, a manufacturer of Personal Protective Equipment including Air Purifying Respirators and Face Shields. Andy has worked to set up Respiratory Protection Programs including respirator fit testing and working with government Ontario Health and Safety regulations and applicable CSA Standards such as Z94.4 on the Selection: Care, and Use of Respirators.

Captain Aman Segu: represents all of our young church families with children. In 2020 Aman has been working for DND analyzing the COVID statistics and in touch with members of parliament re the same issues. Eventually, they will work with the present **Church Property Team** - Dave Burkett, Gerald Formuziewich, Bob Witt & Randy Zimmerling.

Music & Worship:

Team Lead: Beryl Richardson, Dave Burkett, Pastor Norine & Cathy Frivalt. Cathy has been on the phone lines for the Renfrew County COVID testing centres, and works in a local Doctors office.

The task force will co-ordinate with the Altar Guild: Keith Richardson, Lorne & Joanne Bretzlaff, Barbara & Gerald Formuziewich.

COSTCO: Beryl & Keith have already bought 300 gloves & 150 masks. Granddaughter who works at Costco - is on the watch for the large bottles of hand sanitizer & will procure one for us to start. Items in board room at church.

This is not difficult work but it does call attention to detail and teamwork! Thank you for your time in this matter and your dedication to St. John's.

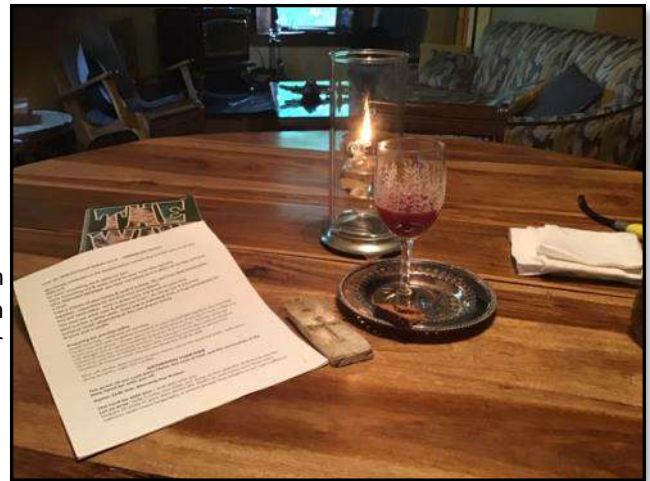
sincerely, Pastor + Norine

**Images about something beautiful or meaningful
found, grown, made, done or written during these
'stay at home' days.**



Lilies in Alison and Dave's garden.

A member's service and communion setting for June 28 home worship. Each communion item has a story of family or friend connected to it.



Emma, Enid and Bob's granddaughter, who arrived in March in COVID time, is growing!, and bringing much joy to grandparents, dad Gavin, mom Catherine and

Thank You



To our St. John's Lutheran Church family,

Thank you for thinking of us during this difficult time. Your generosity and thoughtfulness touched our hearts and words cannot express how truly grateful we are. Your donations of food, tent canopies, comforting words in cards, phone calls, emails, thoughts and prayers were much appreciated.



Much love from Jeff, Debbie, Ryan and Melissa

To all Members of St. John's:

At the recent council meeting, St. John's Church Council learned of Ryan Zimmerling's decision to step down as a member and chair of council. We accepted this decision with regret but also understanding. We are sure all of you will join with us in expressing heartfelt thanks to Ryan for his service on council over the last 5 years, including 3.5 years as council chair. The letter to Ryan (below) is just one way we convey some thanks:

Dear Ryan,

On June 29 you advised church council of your decision to resign, effective immediately, from council. You took this step with regret, and we receive it similarly, but also with understanding. With a heavy workload in a senior Environment Canada position, made heavier in these times of remote working and multiple daily internet meetings, an energetic, growing 'home bound' family, much animal husbandry and farm work on the go, you (and Julie) have so much to manage every day.

Given all this, you wrote that you do not believe you presently have the capacity needed by St. John's in these unprecedented times to provide strong leadership, collaboration and initiative when the pandemic subsides.

Thank you for your service. We want to acknowledge here some of the many initiatives and gifts you have provided over the years, some of which we hope will continue:

- preparing for and participating in many church council meetings over the years, including serving as chair, through times of transition, consolidation, hope and growth. While congregational numbers may not be large, our efforts and spirit in caring within this community and for many others near and far have grown and definitely been supported by you and your energy. This is Gospel work.
- re- visioning and leading in restarting a Sunday School program, and all the preparation, teaching, care and patience this requires;
- other special occasions of togetherness and learning for the young, including movie nights, and the proposal and support of a very successful Vacation Bible Camp and plans for more;
- winter family fun days at your farm, and celebrations on Canada Day., enjoyed by both young and young at heart;
- leadership in building and 'staffing' many Christmas parade floats, well received by local judges, as our award plaques attest;
- supporting Hospice Renfrew hike(s) with the presence of your whole family;
- serving as lector at service personally and with your son Zach;
- planning, preparing and presenting Christmas Eve children's programs;
- thanking and recognizing others with humour and enthusiasm.

Our heartfelt thanks to you for all this,

Faithfully yours,

Council and Members of St. John's Lutheran, Arnprior