



The Mustard Seed

July-August 2022

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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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

Being "Church" in a new time

On Sat. June 4, along with 30 Pastors and laypeople, lay leaders from both St. James and St. John's attended a Lutheran Ministry Area discussion on the topic of "*What is next for the church?*" The morning was facilitated by Synod reps, Rev. Doug Reble and Rev. Adam Snook.

Looking to the Future- Pastor Doug discussed trends and best guess estimates of numbers in the Eastern Synod. At present there are 175 congregations in the Eastern Synod. Some take away messages from this discussion include:

There is a downward trend in all numbers and we need to start conversations now about what each congregation needs, whether it is looking ahead in 2 years' time or in 5 years' time.

Bishop Michael will **NOT** be up for re-election in 2 years. Presently our Synod is looking for a new secretary and a new treasurer. The ELCIC has 8 volunteer opportunities for people to serve on ecumenical partnerships in the areas of compassionate justice.

There are a number of Pastors eligible for retirement in the next 2 to 5 years and there are very few people entering seminary. There is only 1 Masters of Divinity graduate this spring of 2022.

What is important is the context of each church and the community in which they are situated! Natural change and transition continues in the church, as it has done so in the past, AND it is not necessarily a bad thing. What does this mean for the Lutheran Churches of the Ottawa Valley?

So what will it take for St. John's to **sail ahead?** - To work together towards greater stability – to explore some possibilities -to create a way forward as we pay attention to each others' stories? What is our faith community's focus in 2 years time? or even in 5 years time?

As a discussion starter, Church Council will be sending out a survey during the summer for **EVERYONE** to fill in or check off with their responses. We hope this will provide one opportunity for you to "voice" your opinion into the work of the Visioning Team. There will also be time during coffee hours to chat about these issues.

Pastor's Message Continued,

The following article entitled “**Eight rules for white water rafting**” was contained in a report written by Bishop Michael Pryse for one of the past Eastern Synod Assemblies. Bishop Pryse began with this comment; “ these rules might apply to our life together as we meet the challenges ahead within our ELCIC, the Eastern Synod and in our own churches.”

1. Don't be surprised if the boat doesn't go where you want it to.
2. Rest in calm places. There will be more white water soon.
3. Never stop paddling, even when it seems hopeless.
4. If you get in trouble don't panic.
5. If you go under, let go of everything. Eventually it will come back up.
6. Someone needs to call out the orders. It works better that way.
7. White water is what you came for. Enjoy it.
8. Everyone paddles furiously to get somewhere, but ultimately it's the current that takes you downstream.

These are good principles to remember as we are “all in the same boat” when it comes to our faith communities.

Now that summer is upon us, many of us are planning on taking a break from work, or volunteer activities or even our ‘retired’ time at home. Vacations can be relaxing. Sometimes taking a break can make us more productive. A change of place and pace can also boost creativity upon returning. Whatever you and your family decide to do to provide a break this summer, may God bless your time “away” from your routine activities and grant you refreshment and peace.

P+ Norine



HAVE YOUR SAY !

As P+ Norine noted in her message, we want **EVERYONE** to have a **chance to provide their thoughts about our faith community now and our future.** In July, we plan to send out a Visioning Input Survey to give you one opportunity to ‘have your say’. And we

hope to follow this with some more time for you to reflect and then chat together. This consultation will provide valuable input to the work of a smaller group, projected for the fall.

Your voice is important! Watch for the survey – likely going out to you online or by hand on or around July 24th. Please complete and return it by August 7th.

Thanks be to God! - for your time and contributions to this process and for your faithful dedication and contributions as the people of St. John's.

July-August 2022 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Sunday July 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Red & White Sunday, Service of Word & Prayer • special Coffee hour in the lounge after service.
Sunday July 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Worship service of Word & Prayer <i>St. James joins us for worship.</i> • 1 p.m. UNPLUG youth event- Drum, Play & Learn! BIAK Mobile EarlyON Waba Cottage, White Lake (see poster)
Sunday July 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Worship service of Word & Prayer • There will be no Live Stream or YouTube video of this service.
Sunday July 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Worship service of Word & Prayer • Guest musician Karen Prince. • Coffee hour after worship • There will be no Live Stream or YouTube video of this service
Sunday July 31 st	<p>Worship is cancelled at St. John's. You are invited to a 10:00 a.m. BLUE GRASS Service at Trinity St. Andrews United Church, Renfrew, with St. James. (see notice)</p>
Sunday August 7 th	10:30a.m.—Worship service with Holy Communion
Sunday August 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Worship service of Word & Prayer • Coffee hour after worship • There will be no Live Stream or YouTube video of this service
Sunday August 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Worship service with Holy Communion • There will be no Live Stream or YouTube video of this service
Monday August 22 nd	7:00p.m.—Church Council Meets
Sunday August 28 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Worship Service of Word & Prayer • Coffee hour after worship

Minutes of the June 27th, 2022 Council Meeting

Attendance:	Enid Blackwell	Pr. Norine (Zoom)	David Burkett
	Debbie Witt	Alison Burkett (Zoom)	Andy Kalnins
	Fred Steinke (Absent)	Rachel Roesner (Zoom)	

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. (Andy in chair).

1. Pastor opened with a devotion.
2. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the May 25, 2022 minutes be approved as distributed. Enid seconded, **CARRIED**
3. **Lawn Tractor:** There was a email vote from Council on May 31, 2022 to purchase a lawn tractor for the church for \$900 which is generously donated by Randy Zimmerling. This was moved by Alison Burkett and seconded by Dave Burkett. **CARRIED**
4. **Finance:** The financials from May showed a net deficit of some -\$2000, mostly due to investment income being down \$1,561 over projected investment income. Donations recorded so far for June were the lowest since January. Alison moved that the Financial report for the end of May be accepted and Enid seconded. **CARRIED**
5. **Youth:** July 10 is the next UNPLUG session called "Join the Circle! Play & Learn", led by BIAK Mobile EarlyON in partnership with Bonnechere Algonquin First Nations. Including the Kichi Sibi Women Drummers which will be located at the Waba Cottage in White Lake. The second session will be "Explore the Shore" to be led by a Mississippi Valley Field Naturalist the end of July or early Aug. Children who attend more than 3 UNPLUG events will be invited to attend worship in September. We received a SYNOD grant for \$500 of requested \$850 toward a large TV screen and mount for youth movies. We might downsize the size of the TV to live within our means.
6. **Ideas for Renting Space:** As this item was not on the agenda it was decided that this topic would need to be discussed later and that we needed more time to review the material we received. This will be held on Monday, August 22 at 7:00 at the church, so Dave can give us a clearer vision of the proposal by walking us through the building.
7. **Pastor's report:** Communion with wine, served at the pew level has been successful. This will remain in place for the time being. Pastor will be on holiday for the month of July with pastoral coverage; July 7-21 Rev. Martin Malina, July 22-Aug. 4 Rev. Stan Johnston.
8. **COVID Protocols:** No masking is required in Ontario at this time. We had our first social without incident. However, in the Fall there is concern about COVID numbers increasing along with monkeypox, and seasonal flu. It is recommended that Social events be spaced at least 2 weeks apart & that Pastor Norine be authorized to impose requirement masking or other procedures without notice, including cancelling service or social if need be.
9. **Outreach:** No report.
10. **Communications:** There are 11 households/individuals still on the delivery list for service scripts, newsletters, notices, reports which are delivered by volunteers. We are considering placing WOV in the pews again as they have familiar hymns that have been requested.
 - St James will be sent an invitation to have joint service of the word and prayer on July 10.
 - Karen Prince will be asked to play on July 17 (Update: now July 24th) Service of Word and Prayer.
 - July 3 is the next Fellowship thanks to Barbara Formuziewich and Debbie Kargus.
11. **Operations matters:** Debbie, Enid and Dave worked hard on Wednesday, June 15 and were able to clear out the photocopy room and go through old hymnals for recycling. This will be ongoing for some time. The job descriptions are also a work in progress. There were ribbon markers made for our new hymnals thanks to Gwen Steinke and her creative talents.

Continued over →

Minutes from June 27th Council Meeting, continued

- 12. Property:** The basement floor was removed, concreted cleaned (thanks to Randy, Jeff and Gerald). Riding lawnmower and snow blower were purchased. Randy and Jeff continue to search for a used garden shed. Eaves-trough repair is scheduled as is the digging next to the foundation wall of the manse side of the Furnace room for repair and damp proofing. Randy working with the town regarding large curb step on Alicia St. The furnace room is being cleaned up thanks to Randy and Jeff. Sanctuary storms will be removed this week.
- 13. Technology:** Dave investigated the noise in Kathy Martin's video; and it wasn't our equipment, but the video. Question for discussion: "Do we need to live stream each week or just, say twice per month". Streaming twice per month would let others handle the other services. Live streaming involves a lot of work and on July 17 neither Dave or Jeff are here to do it. It was decided that taping of the service is more practical given the number of people who watch the live stream. And total in-person only worship at times was also considered. It was decided that live streaming will gradually discontinue in favour of recording and putting up on YouTube.
- Dave would prefer to give up his position as Property Chair and we will be looking for someone for this position.
- 14. Other Business:** (Enid took chair)
- Visioning Process: There will be a survey presented to the congregation the end of July (which can also be done on-line). The results of this will be reviewed by the Visioning Team, and further member input likely in August. There will be a small group, off site retreat, likely held at the Galilee Centre, in the Fall to discuss the vision of our church in 2-5 years. We received a \$500. grant for this.
 - Planning Cycle (September) Back-pack Sunday, other children's inclusion during worship time.
 - Closing – Pastor closed with The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: August 22, 7:00 p.m. Next regular meeting: September 19 at 7:00.

PRAYER LIST

We normally have this list on our Sunday bulletin.

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

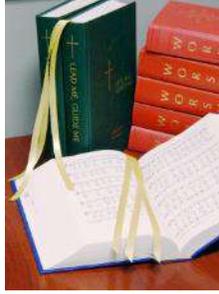
From our congregation: Ed & Rosemary, Linda & family, Vicki, Jacqueline, Kenny T.

Friends of the Parish: Tere, Kathleen & Kye (all connected to Enid), Lorraine (Rhonda McTeer's sister), children -Briar & Alivia (connected to Joy), Ed (Bob Witt's cousin), George W. (P+Norine) and Lynne Z.

All the people listed on our **Friends list** are dealing with cancer - except the 2 children.

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

Thank
You



Thank you, Gwen Steinke for crafting ribbon markers for all our ELW books. A work of creativity and care.

And thank you, Beryl and Keith Richardson, for providing a new mini fridge in the lounge. This safely keeps our supplies as we return to Holy Communion times.



Why Go to Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. “I’ve gone for 30 years now,” he wrote, “and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one of them. So, I think I’m wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.”

This started a controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column, to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

“I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!”—*Author Unknown*

June Worship



Sawyer and Jacob Elliot led prayers of the people for us on Pentecost Sunday, June 5. Here they are, reprising some of their reading after service. Mom Jessica read the scriptures. Come and participate again! We love involving many generations.



Blessing of Community Garden: Also on June 5, worship included an outdoor time with a blessing of the newly planted garden. 'God of creation, we thank you that in this time and place you have granted us a garden'

We thank Gardener Jeff for leading in this communal work to provide some fresh produce for our Food Bank.



Pastor and pals – looking for earthworms??



Steph and friends enjoy the day.



Lois and Barb share a moment.

Norine tries out the 'new to us' lawn tractor. Thanks to Fred and Randy for bringing this to us and the yard!



NOTICE BOARD

GETTING TOGETHER . . & SOME BLUEGRASS MUSIC

St. James Renfrew members and friends are invited to join us at worship July 10, and some may come to July 24 service as well. Please welcome them warmly!

And on **Sunday, July 31, 10 a.m., Trinity-St. Andrew's United in Renfrew has invited us, and we have accepted, to join them and St. James folks** at a special Bluegrass Service. Featured are the Northern Sons, one of Ontario's premier bluegrass bands. The service will be full of gospel tunes and joyful singing. A special freewill offering will be taken to the support the Red Cross **Appeal for the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.**

291 Plaunt St. S. Renfrew. **Anyone wishing a ride, please contact Enid** at 613 623-7017.



THAT ALL MAY BE FED . . .

Remember that you are welcome to sponsor **COMMUNION ELEMENTS** with an extra donation (by envelope, PAR, transfer) in memory or honour of a loved one. Planned communion times are: August 7 and August 21.

Also, **FLOWERS** from your garden or elsewhere are welcomed, as we give thanks for the beauty of the earth.

Kindly advise Enid (613 623-7017) or Altar Guild (Beryl and Keith in July, JoAnne and Lorne in August) of your floral or communion gifts in advance. Altar volunteers can assist you in placing flowers and we like to thank you for your gifts in announcements.



COMMUNITY OVER COFFEE

In July and August, public health allowing, we plan to gather in the lounge and/or outside over coffee 3 more times, after our July 3 gathering: July 24, August 14 and August 28.

We need 2 volunteers each time. **Can you help?** One simple treat (e.g. cookie, square), set up, serving, some clean up involved. Pre-coaching happily provided!

Kindly **contact one of us by July 10, if you can assist.**

Thank you so much for serving in this important community ministry, if you can. And thank you all for gathering and supporting one another!

Debbie Kargus 623-0192 or Barbara Formuziewich 622-1157 - Fellowship Coordinators



On June 19, we marked **Indigenous Sunday** with special prayers and messages.

On this National Indigenous Peoples Day, let us pray...

Faithful God,
 We remember the many, many, Indigenous children who did not return from residential school.
 Grant comfort in the midst of grief and trauma.
 We remember Residential School survivors, their families, their communities, and all who continue to yearn for healing.
 We give thanks for the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. Renew our commitment to the journey of truth-telling, mourning and responsibility and guide us in the ways of healing and love.
 Amen.

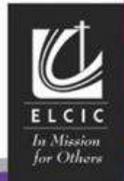


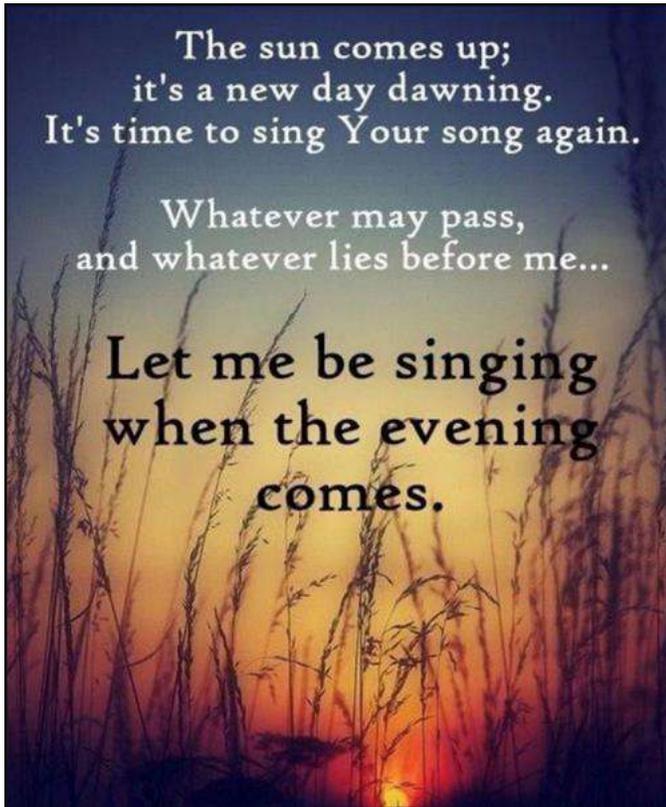
Living our **FAITH**
 PRAY READ WORSHIP LOVE

Each day after my morning coffee and before I leave for work I take a few quiet moments to read a story from a Christian magazine, a Christian newsletter or from a story from a book that my Grandma gave me in 1969! I try to read a story each day. A moment before the busy day starts. I am thankful for this quiet moment and feel a quiet peacefulness in my heart. Ready to start the day and ready to see and hear God's messages as I go about the day.



- Paula Van Vliet





A cat died and went to Heaven. God met the animal at the Pearly Gates and said, "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking."

The cat thought for a moment and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard, wooden floors... I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on."

God said, "Say no more." Instantly, the cat had a HUGE fluffy pillow.

A few days later, 12 mice were simultaneously killed in an accident and they all went up to Heaven together. God met the mice at the Gates of Heaven, with the exact same offer that He made to the cat.

The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives... from cats, dogs, and even from people with brooms. If we could just have some little roller-skates, we would never have to run again."

God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller-skates.

About a week later, God decided to check on the cat... He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?"

The cat replied, "Oh, everything is just WONDERFUL... I've never been so happy in my life! My pillow is always fluffy and those little "Meals-on-Wheels" that You have been sending over are delicious."





UNPLUG Youth Program

June 5: "Farm & Forest Adventures – Part 3". This was the final event of our 3-part series at the Zimmerling Farm. The younger kids started out with Julie at the front pond. They were able to successfully find (and catch!) many tadpoles, newts, salamanders, snakes and a turtle. The kids enjoyed catching them in their nets and then having a closer look at them in a tank/bin. They then moved on to the farm animals, taking turns holding and feeding chickens along with interacting with the goats (lots of cuddles from the babies).

The older group started out with Ryan filling up the feeders for the chickens. They also fed many of the animals by hand and played around with the goats. They then switched with the younger kids and headed to the pond and they actually saw a northern water snake eating a tadpole.

We then ended up meeting up as a large group in the forest for the last 60-90 minutes. Kids had the option of free-playing, doing a nature-based butterfly craft, and/or making a bow (bow and arrow). The kids also got to vote on the new names of our latest goat additions and they chose: Hunter and Harvey.



We need to work on your KISSING skills!



I HAD A BAD DREAM, CAN I SLEEP WITH YOU GUYS?



Summer UNPLUG Plans

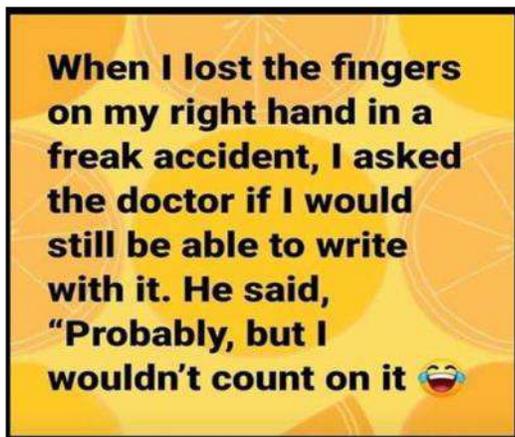
July 10 “Join the Circle! Drum, Play & Learn”: will be a chance for our UNPLUG kids to take part in a special indigenous learning and playing time. They’ll be able to sing and drum with children’s drums, along with some of the Kichi Sibi Women Drummers from the Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation. There will also be tales told about indigenous peoples’ culture and language. The location is the beautiful Waba Cottage Museum & Gardens on White Lake.

July 24 & August 7: will have the 2 following events – specific dates for each depend on leader schedules

“Explore the Shore”: explore part of the Indian River that flows through the Mill of Kintail. Kids can walk in the river there – nice sand - bare feet or water shoes if preferred. The leaders will be Ken & Ruth Allison, both active members of the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists.

“Build, Decorate & Fly Kites”: a reprise of last summer’s UNPLUG program where the kids decorate and build their kites at St. John’s Church and then head over to Walter Zadow School to fly them. Let’s hope for a nice breeze that day.

August 27 “Festival of the Wild Child”: we’ll go together as an UNPLUG group to the “Festival of the Wild Child” Family event at the High Lonesome Nature Reserve in Pakenham. Details aren’t available yet for this year’s festival but the 2021 event featured a choice of nature-inspired scavenger hunts. This event is organized by the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust.



Pastor Norine will be away for holidays from **July 7 to August 4.**

Should you require pastoral care during that time please call Enid Blackwell directly at 613-623-7017.

The office phone will be monitored also during this time.

Rev. Martin Malina and Rev. Stan Johnstone have offered to be available during this time. Please do not call them directly.

Worship will continue as found in the newsletter calendar.

July—August 2022



BIRTHDAYS

July 10th—Kalin Brohart

July 11th—Maxzene Zimmerling

July 17th—Barbara Formuziewich

July 20th—Alison Burkett

July 29th—Marion Leeck

August 4th—Zach Zimmerling

August 7th—Greg Steinke

August 18th—Judith Johnstone

August 25th—Mark Boese

August 31st—Marion Koops

ANNIVERSARIES

July 2nd—Jeff & Debbie Kargus

August 11th—Ryan & Julie Zimmerling

August 26th—Russell & Shaundra Craig

August 29th—Mel & Marion Bretzlaff

Wait, wait... you're telling me...



If I pee in the yard, I get a TREAT?

INSTANT ANTIDEPRESSANT



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JULY—AUGUST 2022



	Weeks (Sun-Sat)	Watering	Grass Cutters
Watering 2-3 times/ week	3-Jul	Alison B	Dave
	10-Jul	Mel & Marion B	Lorne R
	17-Jul	Elmer & Marion L	Cory
	24-Jul	Debbie W & Phoenix	Bob
	31-Jul	Alison B	Dave
	7-Aug	Mel & Marion B	Lorne R
	14-Aug	Elmer & Marion L	Jeff
	21-Aug	Joy S/ Cory	Cory
	28-Aug	Keith & Beryl R	Randy
	4-Sep	Elmer & Marion L	Jeff
	11-Sep	Debbie W & Phoenix	Bob
	18-Sep	Cathy Z	Lorne

DATE	READING	ALTAR	USHERS	COUNTERS	BUILDING
July 3rd	Jeff Kargus	Beryl & Keith	Lorne & Maureen	Lorne & Maureen	Gerald
July 10th	Mark Boese	Beryl & Keith	Lorne & Maureen	Lorne & Maureen	Gerald
July 17th	Ryan/Julie Zimmerling & Family	Beryl & Keith	Lorne & Maureen	Lorne & Maureen	Gerald
July 24th	Maureen Rueckwald	Beryl & Keith	Lorne & Maureen	Lorne & Maureen	Gerald
July 31st	Joy Statham (family)	Beryl & Keith	Lorne & Maureen	Lorne & Maureen	Gerald
August 7th	Rachel Roesner & Thomas	JoAnne & Lorne	Greg, Fred, Kevin Steinke	JoAnne & Lorne	Gerald
August 14th	Andy Kalnins	JoAnne & Lorne	Greg, Fred, Kevin Steinke	JoAnne & Lorne	Gerald
August 21st	Cathy Zimmerling	JoAnne & Lorne	Greg, Fred, Kevin Steinke	JoAnne & Lorne	Gerald
August 28th	Shaundra Craig & Kaleigh	JoAnne & Lorne	Greg, Fred, Kevin Steinke	JoAnne & Lorne	Gerald