



The Mustard Seed

July-Aug 2024

Newsletter

of

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Church Council

Andy Kalnins (Chair)	863-0202
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Fred Steinke	298-5017
Mellissa Watt	858-9932

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 Council Chair

5 Summer Songs

- 1/ Summertime – Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3kQt14_50Q
- 2/ Walking on Sunshine – Katrina and the Waves <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPUmE-tne5U>
- 3/ Sunny Days – Lighthouse <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8IcW5TtPOE>
- 4/ A Midsummer Night's Dream – Felix Mendelson <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/mood/summer/best-classical-music-for-summertime/>
- 5/ Lazy Hazy Days of Summer – Nat King Cole <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OZrNDtRltg>

5 Summer Foods

- 1/ Radishes
- 2/ Asparagus
- 3/ Strawberries
- 4/ Corn
- 5/ Lambs Quarters

5 Summer Books

- 1/ Rebecca – Daphne du Maurier
- 2/ Dandelion Wine – Ray Bradbury
- 3/ The Great Gatsby – F Scott Fitzgerald
- 4/ Desert Solitaire – Edward Abbey
- 5/ The Landing – John Ibbitson

5 Summer Ambitions

- 1/ Cycle from Arnprior to Almonte
- 2/ Hike from Arnprior to Pakenham
- 3/ Kayak in White Lake
- 4/ Paddle from Shawshe to Dry Bay on the Tatshenshini River (full confession – this is downstream)
- 5/ Climb Goat Ridge

So what is summer without music, foods, some reading, and some ambitions? I have shared some of my thoughts above.

The Gospels highlight the ministry of Jesus which was about 3 years or so. Every Sunday we hear a gospel reading, such

Continued—>

Message from the Chair of Council, Continued

as the first miracle described in Cana when Jesus changed water into wine. Far be it from me to speculate on why Jesus did what he did when he did. But I do not think Jesus went to the Wedding at Cana to show his divinity. He was there to show love and support and to relax and enjoy the good that life offers.

We have a lot going on. We are meeting with Rev Doug Reble and Rev Christie Morrow-Wolfe in September to advance the call process for a new pastor. Some folks have some very exciting plans about accessibility to the church. The Outreach folks are bringing Amalfi Coast to Arnprior in the autumn. The garden at the back of the church is in full vigor. We have had, and will continue to have some dynamic pastors as guests. It was a privilege to have Sophie Smith Doré in our building.

But it is the summer. What is your play list? What music and books would you recommend? What foods do you consider synonymous with the summer? What are your ambitions?

Let's enjoy the season and be ready to get to work after the Labor Day Weekend!

(and we all know that the building is being maintained, the lawn is being landscaped, we have people planning for the future, there are readers, greeters, counters, cheques are being issued, services are being led, bulletins printed .. thanks to all who give up their free time for the benefit of all us)

Sincerely, Andy Kalnins

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our Congregation: Jaqueline, June, Vicki, Samantha, Pastor Norine, Ryan Z. and Karen Greening, and

friends: Tere, children Briar and Alivia, George W., Lynne Z., Charlotte, Claude, Roy and John S.

If you wish to add a name to this list or update it, please contact:

Barbara Formuziewich 613 622-1157 baformuziewich@gmail.com

July-August 2024 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Fridays	1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge
Thursdays	Prayer Group will continue at a later time.
Sunday July 7th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion—Pr. Michael Hackbusch
Saturday July 13th	9:00a.m.—Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s restaurant
Sunday July 14th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion —Pr. Michael Hackbusch
Mon July 15th — Friday July 19th	Vacation Bible Camp
Sunday July 21st	10:30 Worship Service with Holy Communion —Pr. Michael Hackbusch
Sunday July 28th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service
Sunday Aug 4th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service
Sunday Aug 11th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service
Sunday Aug 18th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service
Saturday Aug 24 th	9:00a.m. — Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s
Sunday Aug 25th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service
Monday Aug 26 th	1:00p.m. — Church Council Meets



Minutes of June 17, 2024 Council Meeting

Attendance:

Andy Kalnins	Debbie Witt	Fred Steinke
Enid Blackwell	Karen Greening	Mellissa Watt (regrets)

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

- 1. Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the May 13, 2024 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Karen, CARRIED.
- 2. Short Term Ministry:** Andy noted we have Pr. Michael Hackbusch at least once in July. Summer service series will be used from SYNOD at times. Possibly have a guest speaker from the LGBTQ+, Indigenous communities, and the Fountain for example, and a service led by Ryan Z and youth. Pr. Sylvia Poetschke not readily available, but contact will be maintained, in case of change. Andy is lead in this area. Enid has contacted several ministers to see who would be available for in home/in care members and active members who may wish pastoral care over the next months. Debbie, Enid and/or Beryl Pastoral Care Team, would book hours with a pastor monthly/bi-monthly so visits can occur, and seek emergency care as needed.
- 3. Property (also Property Chair Position):** Fred reported that Randy said that Alison is willing to obtain paint and contact volunteers to paint the pastor's office. Andy will advise Alison that painting may start in July. The sub-panel was completed and we thank those who were involved. Council acknowledged the elevator proposal and this is under consideration. Fred to contact the team proposing this to proceed with further research to bring to council - e.g. requirements, environmental aspects, feasibility, all costs (e.g. design, engineering, permits, trades, labour, materials), proposed project and financial plan. When completed a summary will be brought to Council.
- 4. Pastor Norine Update:** Andy and Enid met with Pr. Norine. Pr. Norine is removing her items from her office as she is able and expects to use a key and complete this process by the end of June. It is noted that she is a member of St. John's although protocol for transitional times prevents current involvement.
- 5. Finances:** Enid reported. End May net ordinary income is surplus to budget by \$1,821, compared to April's deficit -\$3,261. Commitments: \$34,351 include a special 1 time donation, yet short of budget. While no current fundraisers are likely, apart from dance, rental income is favourable at \$2315, given recent Rosien memorial rental. Recent expenses include Supply \$1092, Youth VBS supplies \$820, \$510 for storm windows, some railing expenses. Bank balance end of May \$38,356. Enid requested approval to: research short term investments at the bank, contract pastoral care services, remit \$100 to Fountain, transfer held TAP funds. Enid moved treasurer's report and requests be accepted, Fred seconded. CARRIED
- 6. Call Process and Church Profile:** Andy has started to complete the Profile forms. Andy, Enid, Debbie and Karen to meet for completion of Profile.
- 7. Outreach:** Andy said Outreach met and will hold a fundraiser for the Fountain (date TBD). To consider approaching United, Anglican and possibly Muslim groups to partner in such an event.

OTHER REPORTS - none — Next meeting: Monday, August 26, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Youth Report

We had a great time at the Camp Lutherlyn Open House on June 15th. Many thanks to Camp Lutherlyn for this opportunity to tour the camp and for the delicious lunch. This was an opportunity for the camp to show gratitude for all the support they get from area congregations.



I believe attendance at the Open House was about 60 people. From our church, 3 Sunday School families were able to attend and a handful of adults without kids in tow. The kids enjoyed the morning activities run by the camp and then joined kids from other congregations at the playground and then the beach! Weather was perfect for the day.

Two of our families decided to spend Saturday night at camp - in the 2 beach cabins: Shepherd's Staff and Bancroft cabins. (The camp reduced the rental fee for this weekend). Who knows, more of us might like to do that the next time Camp Lutherlyn gives us an opportunity; the Four Seasons lodge has 8 bedrooms so could easily accommodate another 4 families.

Property Chair Needed



We are in need of someone to chair the property committee. The property chair primarily organizes the “to-do list” for the church, and co-ordinates taking action on the issue, either by doing the repair, asking a church member to help, or by arranging for contracted repair.

Regular duties:

- ensure the building is checked on a regular basis (maintain list of volunteers to routinely do a “walk around”).
- Co-ordinate volunteers to do regular yard work (grass cutting, snow clearing etc).
- Provide a brief (written) report to council on activities and any up-coming issues.
- Work with council to establish a budget for repair and maintenance.

There is no salary associated with this position, but the benefits are fantastic. You're virtually assured of a place in heaven!

Financial Update from Council: First Quarter plus Two Months-End of May, 2024

Thank you all for continuing to participate in financial support of St. John’s varied ministries, through regular offerings for our operating budget, whether through envelopes, PAR, etransfers, and/or Canada Helps. This support also extends to action for others. Synod benevolence is re-mitted monthly, a local ‘benevolence’ transfer is going to the Fountain, and remittances of personal donations are going to Teachers Against Poverty and Food Bank. We continue to welcome our Muslim neighbours who rent some space weekly, and we hosted community dance through May.

Our financial details to the end of May show a surplus to our operating budget of some \$1,800, considerably better than a \$1,560 deficit last year at this time. Our commitments income generally runs at a deficit to budget of \$1000/month. However, thanks to a special one-time donation the average monthly income deficit to budget went down to \$710/month at the end of May.

A major change in budgeted expenses comes in pastoral ministry costs. These are expected to end lower than budgeted this year, given this time of transition where we rely on a fluid schedule of supply pastors and lay leaders for services, and are without an ongoing pastor. Pastoral care, to begin in July, will add to pastoral ministry costs, (see the newsletter note on page 8 **Care with Pastor Leena**), and any ‘call process’ costs may add to pastoral and/or administration costs. Any questions, kindly contact Enid, **613 623-7017**, eblackwell.ca@gmail.com.

Income	As of May 31	Budget (5/12 yr.)	(below)/above budget	Comments
Commitments	\$34,352	\$37,917	(\$3,565)	4.3% increase not yet realized
Fundraisers	\$345	\$833	(\$488)	SJL dance with A. Villarreal; no fundraiser projected, 2K budget unlikely to be met
Rental	\$2,316	\$1,083	\$1,232	Good -expect budget to be exceeded somewhat
Total income	\$37,013	\$39,833	(\$2,821)	
Expenses	\$35,191	\$39,833	(\$4,642)	pastoral min. & property below budget
Net Ordinary Income	\$1,822			
Total Other Income	\$4,652		No budget	Memoriam, investment return, Food Bank, youth/UNPLUG fees, TAP
Total Other Expense	\$ 91			Some more going out in June



Message from the June 23rd Service

Delivered by Sophie Smith-Doré

Aanii/Boozhoo, Sophie Indizhnikaaaz. Miigaadidekwe gaye niin indigo. This means hello. My name is Sophie, and I'm also called Fighting/Strong Woman. I am the pflag Canada Arnprior Chapter Lead and am so grateful to have been invited to speak with you today. It's tough to follow readings from a best-selling title that has been in print for 2000 years and counting, but I'll give it a shot!

I introduced myself in Anishinaabe, a language spoken by the Ojibwe, and that's an important context for my time with you today. My history is rooted in both Indigenous spirituality and organized religion. My great-grandmother's grandfather, Chief Sunday, founded our reservation in Alderville and, due to the ravages of assimilation, became a Methodist minister. Through his ministry, he advocated for his people to the best of his ability - this is his legacy. Today, I walk a path of decolonization that reconnected me to my roots, and I carry with me the lessons of my ancestors.

This resonated deeply with me throughout the readings this morning. When I met with Enid and Andy, who shared their passion for your faith community and these readings, I was reminded that the underlying call is very simple: a deeper understanding of grace, faith, and inclusivity—principles that transcend cultural barriers. This is the mandate of pflag as an organization.

For those who don't know, pflag is a National charitable organization that no longer uses its acronym, which used to stand for parents, family and friends of lesbians and gays. What is still true of the organization is that it provides support and resources for 2SLGBTQI+ folks and functions as advocates and educators for the queer community to foster inclusivity and community connection.

Now, as an Indigenous woman, I'm a storyteller, and sometimes I take the long road to get to a very short point - it's a gift. I also believe we come to understand our world **only** through the stories and experiences of others. **To accept our own experiences alone as the truth is ignorance.** In Job 38:1-11, we hear God reminding Job of this very thing. This passage invites us to recognize the limitations of our perspectives and trust those whose experiences differ from ours. As I learned, Job goes on to argue with God, as many do when they believe their experiences and opinions are more valuable than those with the lived experiences that hold the wisdom. This is the experience of so many marginalized people. My trans daughter is constantly told she can't possibly know who she is, and I am frequently told that I'm parenting her wrong - by people who can't define the term gender or imagine giving their children space to explore their individuality. They do not hold the lived experience to claim expertise, but they are doing so.

Mark 4:35-41, was also incredibly profound from my perspective, which is a testament to the power of perspective. The frightened disciples needed to be protected from the storm. Jesus's response was to immediately stop the storm and question why the disciples didn't have faith.

—> Follow me on a thought exercise, if you will. Let's say those frightened disciples are young people who, for reasons you don't understand, don't identify with society's understanding of male or female. They feel ostracized and rejected at every turn, and they have, like these disciples, no faith. *How will you respond?* Will you speak from your lack of experience like Job to the expert in theirs - the young person? Rather than stop the storm without questioning as God did, will you tell them they must first repent and fit this specific mold to be worthy of your love and effort? The love extended by Jesus and God was inclusive and unconditional. I ask you to consider, is yours? If so, is it to everyone?

Continued —>>>

Sophie Smith-Doré's June 23rd message, continued

When I met with Enid and Andy, I asked for one word that symbolized their faith community, and without hesitation, they said "grace." I understand that in the context of the Lutheran faith, this means *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."* So, surely, my recommendation is that as a community of faith, you embody the grace and love that Jesus taught, which is a valued message.

I encourage you to reflect on ways you can apply these messages to your understanding of the experiences of those whose realities differ from yours. Listen to the stories of others, challenge your own assumptions and biases, and be willing to grow in empathy and compassion. Just as your church and faith community is a beacon of hope and love to you, may you be that to every human you encounter, regardless of their gender or sexual identity.

Nimiigwetchiwendam (I am thankful).



Care with Pastor Leena

Council is pleased to share the good news that Pastor Leena Jensen, who serves St. Peter's, Alice and Grace, Rankin ¾ time, has accepted to provide St. John's members and families pastoral care over the months while we are without an ongoing pastor. Pastor Leena lives in Pembroke, and plans are for her to be available to us approximately 6 hours, 1 day a month in July, August and September.

Here is our current plan which will be updated by announcements or emails as needed:

Purpose: to meet parishioner, family and council/committee needs for pastoral care or presence as requested.

Scheduling: Pastoral Care team (Beryl Richardson, Debbie Witt, Enid Blackwell) will reach out to members **unable to attend** St. John's services who live in retirement homes, care centre and personal residences to arrange any desired visits, including home communion, on the days Pastor Leena is available. A PC person will attend first meetings to introduce Pastor Leena.

Council also advises that Pastor Leena is pleased to connect with any **more active members, families or *congregational teams/groups** who wish private or group time with her over the phone or in person or wish to include her in a gathering. *e.g. if Prayer Group wishes to meet and include Pastor Leena in their time together.

Days & time: Monday, July 15 & Monday, August 5: 9:30 – 4:30 p.m. with a break for lunch. We will ensure no space conflict with VBS July 15 morning.

Monday, September 16, same timing. This date to be confirmed.

Connecting: You may reach Pastor Leena at leenabjensen@yahoo.ca or by phone at: 1 613 631-1082 to arrange phone or in person time. **Do not hesitate to reach out to her** before one of her days with us.

Other opportunities: Should we continue without an interim or regular pastor for some time, we will explore if and how Pastor Leena might be present for us in council, and/or for young people and families.

Recommendations: Pastor Leena comes recommended to us by 3 other pastors, including P+ Norine.

Compensation & Mileage: Anticipated to be approximately \$500 a month: \$300 plus pension contribution and mileage. Welcome, Pastor Leena!

July—August 2024



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 29th—Mel & Marion
Bretzlaff*



GROANERS

- "What's brown and sticky? A stick.
- Why did the duck cross the road? Because the chicken was working from home!
- What do you call an acupuncturist who works on cattle?? — A cowpoke
- The osteopath walks into a bar. He looks around and says "this joints a mess"
- A 5"1" conniving fraudulent fortune-teller escaped a manhunt for him, evading the authorities.....the headline read, "small medium at large!"
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

July-August 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
July 7 th	Mark Boese	Barbara & Gerald	Elmer & Marion	Elmer & Marion	TBC	Jeff
July 14 th	Karen Greening	Barbara & Gerald	Elmer & Marion	Elmer & Marion		Bob
July 21 st	Bob Witt	Barbara & Gerald	Elmer & Marion	Elmer & Marion		Gerald
July 28 th	Ryan Julie Z Family	Barbara & Gerald	Elmer & Marion	Elmer & Marion	TBC	Randy
Aug 4 th	Vicki Weichenthal	Jo Anne, Lorne & Kathy T.	Maureen & Lorne	Jo Anne & Lorne		Randy
Aug 11 th	Joy Statham	Jo Anne, Lorne & Kathy T.	TBD	Jo Anne & Lorne		Randy
Aug 18 th	Kathy Tonkin	Jo Anne, Lorne & Kathy T.	Debbie & Bob	Jo Anne & Lorne		Randy
Aug 25 th	Jessica Z Family	Jo Anne, Lorne & Kathy T.	Debbie & Bob	Jo Anne & Lorne	TBC	Randy

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.