



The Mustard Seed

June 2024

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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

Church Council

Andy Kalnins (Chair) 863-0202
Enid Blackwell (V./Treas) 623-7017
Debbie Witt (Sec'y) 622-1500
Karen Greening (416) 540-5354
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

It is June, the month of the Summer Solstice. Long before Christianity, before Judaism, people knew the significance of the sun being higher in the sky than on any other day of the year, and lingering for the greatest amount of time. It was a time of celebration and a time of joy. But it was also a reminder that each day would now bring a little less sunlight, and that it was important to nurture the crops in the ground and to be mindful of the cycle of the herbs and berries in the forest. You would need a lot to get through the winter that you knew was coming.

Here at SJL we have had a pretty outstanding month of May. We had three pastors at the pulpit! Pastor Stan Johnstone truly made the Celebration of the lives of Henry and Lois Rosien a celebration. The tears and sadness did not drown the laughter and joy – it was the other way around! The church was literally full to the rafters, well at least to the balcony. Randy Zimmerling did a wonderful eulogy, and words spoken by Jenn McMillan, Vera Dittburner, and Lorraine Cluff captured the spirit of Henry and Lois. Thanks to Keith and Beryl for ushering, Maureen for reading, Karen for playing, and to Debbie and her crew for assisting in the kitchen. On this day there was not a single errant blade of grass in our lawns, and that was thanks to Lorne Rueckwald. The Super Bowl is not won without a quarterback, and this day was engineered by Lynn Rosien. Lynn, your parents would have been proud!

All our regular Sunday Services had not only a Pastor, but Holy Communion as well. Michael Hackbusch was a blast from the past (his father having served here, and Michael as a young boy, being familiar with all the nooks and crannies of the church). Seldom has the congregation done as well with a cappella music. And Pastor Sylvia Poetschke provided as good of an explanation of the Trinity as possible, as well as commentary on the combined love and uselessness of her dogs (you had to be there for that). And there could not have been a better party to celebrate the birthday of Marion Bretzlaff than the one that followed the service.

Continued—>

Message from the Chair of Council, Continued

Perhaps our Solstice took place in the month of May. So what now? Pastor Michael is hoping to be with us a few Sundays in June. Pastor Michael is also Captain Hackbusch in the Canadian Forces, based in Petawawa. His unit is a rapid response group that can be called to duty at any time to anywhere in the world, so his ability to commit to us is fragile. Pastor Sylvia is currently based in Magnetawan, which from our perspective is on the wrong side of Algonquin Park. That may change in the future, but currently it's important that we deal with the "now".

Moving forward we will continue to explore options, and so be prepared for some varied guests and some lay services over the summer months. But please mark Wednesday June 12th on your calendars. At 6:00 pm that evening we are having pizza! However, we are also going to have an open forum discussion on creating a Congregational Mission Profile. What the heck is that? Think of it a dating app for our church! If you want to attract someone (like a pastor) you need to explain what you are all about and we are going to start the process collectively. See the [Congregational Profile Considerations](#) on page 6 of this newsletter.



June is PRIDE month. By the time you read this, both the Town of Arnprior and the Township of McNab/Braeside will be flying the Rainbow Flag. Our own ELCIC states *"The ELCIC celebrates the truth that sexuality is part of God's good creation. We relate to one another and to God as sexual beings.*

We will lift up positive images of healthy sexuality that nurture relationship and person. We articulate and lift up our vision of lives as sexual creatures longing for companionship and capable of deep levels of intimacy, love and care."

LGBTQ+ people, especially adolescents are at considerably greater risk of self-harm and suicide than their heterosexual and cis-gender peers. That is a shameful and unacceptable statistic in the Canada of 2024. We all have a part to play in this, with not only our actions, but our inactions. Let this church stand on the side of love and justice and truth.

The summer will be here for us to enjoy. We live in a land of green forests, bountiful fields, and blue waters. When God bequeathed this all to Adam the sacred texts read; *"I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground — everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food."* And it was so.

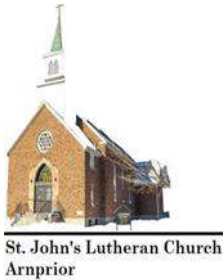
We have been given a wonderful and bountiful legacy, and yet every day we read news reports of how we are destroying this gift. The people that first noticed the cycle of seasons could never have imagined that their descendants could, or would, do this. Yet in 2024, here we are.

So - we have a planet to save and a need to keep the doors open in a church. There is no reason that we cannot do both!

Sincerely, Andy Kalnins

June 2024 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Fridays	1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge
Wednesdays	6:00-7:00p.m. Dance in the Hall
Thursdays	Prayer Group will continue at a later time.
Sunday June 3rd	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion - Rev. Hackbusch
Sunday June 9th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion - Rev. Hackbusch
Wednesday June 12th	6:00p.m. — Pizza and discussion about the Congregational Profile. See more detail on Page 6 of this newsletter.
Saturday June 15th	11:00a.m.—4:00p.m. — Camp Lutherlyn Open House and Sunday School. See detail on Page 9 of this newsletter.
Sunday June 16th	10:30 Worship Service of the Word—Lay led
Monday June 17th	1:00p.m.—Church Council Meets
Saturday June 22 nd	9:00a.m. — Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s
Sunday June 23rd	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word—Lay led
Sunday June 30th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion - Rev Hackbusch



Minutes of April 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.

Andy welcomed everyone. Enid read an opening devotion. Karen read a prayer.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the April 17, 2024 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Karen, CARRIED.
2. **Short Term Ministry:** Andy noted we have Michael Hackbusch for 3 Sundays in May, uncertain if any in June. Sylvia Poetschke, with us May 26, can only be here once a month. A discussion concluded that having a pastor twice a month may be achievable with two lay services a month. June and July services to be determined; Andy will lead in this work. Pastoral care proposal for at home/in care and active members who wish pastor contact to be determined for by Debbie and Enid, pastoral care team members. E.g. booking hours with a pastor each month with schedule publicized so visits can occur. Emergency care as needed.
3. **Property (also Property Chair Position):** We thank Dave Burkett and Randy Zimmerling for their service as Property Chair over past years. It was determined that we will put a request in the newsletter to see if anyone would consider this position. Randy said he has a few projects that he will oversee for completion. Proposed updating of Pastor's office and planned accessible wash-room renovation deferred until the Fall/Winter.
4. **Pastor Norine:** An exit interview to be offered and led by Karen Greening, who will ask Randy Zimmerling to consider participating. Also we plan to celebrate and thank her in time; perhaps with a lunch/social outside of the building. To be determined.
5. **Finances:** Enid reported net overall positive April result of +\$1300 with inclusion of other income (largely memoriam, investment 1st qtr. income \$909) but net ordinary deficit is -\$3,261. Commitments at \$26,330 remain 1k/mo. below budget; other income and most expenses as expected. Pastoral ministry costs above budget, pending receipt of St. James' April payment, delayed while final retirement figures determined. Budget shifts may come given current reduction in pastoral costs, and increase in some costs related to transitional time. Request received from dance group for consideration of installing 2 large, 2nd hand mirrors with a covering curtain where Rocky Road mural is currently. Agreed this could be explored and cost sharing proposal brought to council. 2023 charitable return to CRA submitted this week. Enid motioned that treasurer's report be accepted as presented, seconded by Karen. CARRIED
6. **Call Process:** Andy emailed a Congregational Profile form to Council members for review as it needs completion before a call is initiated (if we decide on this). This profile is to show history and nature of congregation. Copies to be prepared for members, requesting input to help complete these forms. Plan made for facilitated discussion group on Wednesday, June 12 at 6:00 p.m. with pizza, and completion of profile prior to our June council meeting.
7. **Future Church Council Priorities:** Receiving input from Outreach, led by Jeff, on future activities. Andy to contact Jeff.

OTHER REPORTS - none

Close of Meeting: Next meeting: Monday, June 17, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

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!

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our Congregation: Ed, Jacqueline, Rachel, Jeff Obst, June, Vicki, Samantha, P+ Norine, Ryan Z, Kathy T, Karen and

friends: Tere, children Briar and Alicia, Lynne Z., Claude, and Amy.

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

Barbara Formuziewich 613 622-1157 baformuziewich@gmail.com



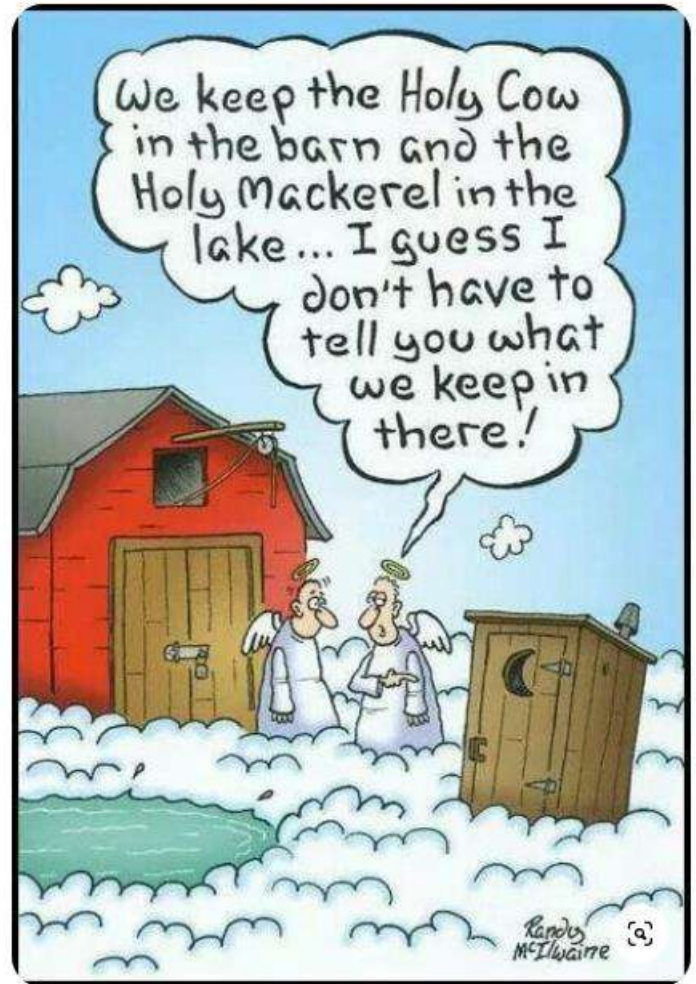
CONGREGATIONAL MISSION PROFILE DISCUSSION

Wednesday June 12th – 6:00p.m. — Pizza

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What events or developments are the most important from the history of our congregation?
2. What are some of the present challenges for us as we move into the future?
3. Describe the service ministries of our congregation, our community involvement, and ecumenical partnerships that really move you.
4. Describe synod and national church activities in which members have participated.
5. As a local expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, how does this congregation see itself as a partner with the synod and the national church?
6. Describe some distinct attributes of the community our congregation serves. (For example: urban, suburban, small town or rural; growing, stable or declining economy; ethnic diversity, education opportunities; household profile; primary business or industries.)
7. What trends or issues in the community should be addressed by our congregation in the next five years? (For example: impact of population shifts, domestic violence, day care, youth services or recreation, homelessness, new construction, inflated housing prices or decline of housing stock)
8. What opportunities for cooperation have we found in our community? (For example: ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, multifaith, cooperative worship, youth events, food pantry, women's shelter or homeless shelter).
9. During the next one to three years, what are the top three mission priorities for the congregations which, if accomplished, hold the most promise for the continued development of our church? (For example: outreach; service to the community; building program; training lay ministers)
10. What is your congregation excited about? For example: list events or activities that generate interest and participation.

It will not be as onerous as it sounds! It is just an open talk within family to talk about what we are all about. We may know it in our heads, we may feel it in our hearts, but we need to put it down in writing. Please attend if you are able. But if you cannot you can make some notes and get them over to any member of Church Council. Or you can email me at flatrap-ids@gmail.com Or you can just plain old talk to a member of council.



- A Sunday school teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" One little boy shouted, "Thou shall not kill."
- A small town had four churches Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic and Baptist. All four had a serious problem with squirrels in the church. Each church in its own fashion had a meeting to deal with the problem. The Presbyterians decided that it was predestined that squirrels be in the church and that they would just have to live with them. The Methodists decided they should deal with the squirrels lovingly in the style of Charles Wesley. They humanely trapped them and released them in a park at the edge of town. Within 3 days, they were all back in the church. The Catholics also humanely trapped them and attempted to teach them the "rhythm" method which of course did not work. The Baptists had the best solution. They voted the squirrels in as members Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.
- A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The Pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching." On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want -- God is watching the apples."



Following the May 26th service, we celebrated Marion Bretzloff's 85th Birthday with a fantastic lunch and social time.



June 2024

BIRTHDAYS

June 6th—Pastor Norine

June 14th—Cory Weckwerth

June 15th—Anda Kalnins

June 23rd—Bob Hinchley

June 23rd—Shane Zimmerling

June 24th—Kaleigh Craig

ANNIVERSARIES

*June 24th—Barbara & Gerald
Formuziewich*

*June 29th—Cathy & Randy
Zimmerling*



Sunday School Picnic



St. John's Youth Committee has decided to hold an end-of-season combined Sunday School and UNPLUG event at Camp Lutherlyn on Saturday June 15th from 11 am to 4 pm and would like to invite all the congregation to join us.

Why Camp Lutherlyn? They are holding an Open House that day, to welcome all the area Lutheran congregations to camp. We will have our own place at camp to gather. Bring your lawn chairs and a refillable water bottle. There are 4 time slots:

11:30 - 12:30: A chance for kids who are interested in attending Kids Camp (or Family Camp) to meet some of this year's counsellors who will be holding some fun camp activities.

While kids are at "camp" for that hour, others can tour the various camp buildings. Camp Lutherlyn is a wonderful place for extended family gatherings - come see the Four Seasons 8-bedroom Lodge, and the Bancroft and Shepherd's Staff Beach Cabins. And see Schmieder Hall, the Comfort Station and one of the bunk cabins to see how a big family gathering (70 or more people) could be held. Or, if you don't want to "tour", you can enjoy some of the camp recreation activities - canoes / Kayaks, horseshoes, ping pong etc.

12:30 - 1:30: Pick up your lunch (no charge) and take a canoe or kayak out for a paddle or go for a walk on the beach or just hang out at our spot.

1:30 - 2:30: Ryan will lead our kids in our picnic activities - details to follow. Some will be located around our gathering spot so adults can join in the fun.

2:30 - 3:30: a closing Worship Service will be led by Pastor Sue Nevile.

If you plan to attend, register before June 8th to get your lunch tickets either with this link <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/camp-lutherlyn-open-house-lunch-tickets-874712026217?a%1F=oddtcreator>

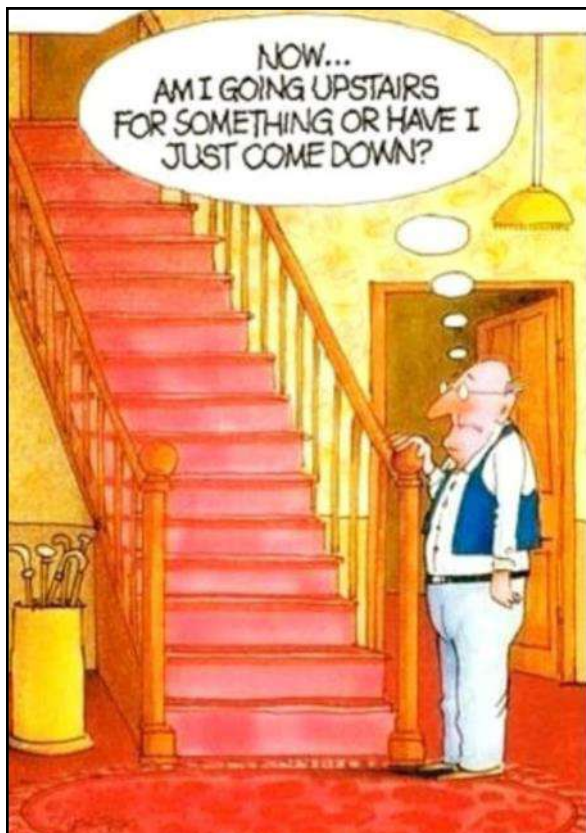
Or if you don't have a computer, call Alison at 613-618-5716.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

June 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
June 3 rd	TBD	Beryl & Keith	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion		Jeff
June 9 th	Maureen Rueckwald	Beryl & Keith	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion		Bob (TBC)
June 16 th	Kathy Tonkin	Beryl & Keith	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion		Gerald
June 23 rd	Bob Witt	Beryl & Keith	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion		Randy
June 30 th	Melissa & Nathan	Beryl & Keith	G, F, K, Steinke	Mel & Marion	Social TBC	Dave



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.