



The Mustard Seed

March 2023

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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

Church Council

Enid Blackwell (Chair)	623-7017
Debbie Witt (Sec'y)	622-1500
Andy Kalnins (Vice)	863-0202
Dave Burkett	618-5729
Fred Steinke	298-5017
Pastor Norine	623-4562
Randy Zimmerling (Tres)	899-7892

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

The Season of Lent

We are joined, spiritually, by millions of Christians around the world to be part of the Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday, the practice of marking worshippers' foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross is one of Christianity's most visible rituals.

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are meant to represent dust. When we receive the ashes on our foreheads, we hear the words: "*Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*" This is a reference to what God said to Adam when exiling him from the Garden of Eden (we remember from our biblical history that Adam is literally formed from dust). On Ash Wednesday, the saying is a cue to be humble in the face of mortality.

In thinking of all of that, I am reminded about the people of the Ukraine, and those who have suffered due to the earthquakes. It made me stop and think about something else too. *About what it would be like to receive the ashes if your work was that of any military personnel?*

Jesus engaged in rituals. He prayed, fasted, and gave away the gifts of healing and hospitality. They were part of his lived out love for God and the people around him.

Whatever you do, or decide to give up doing as your LENTEN practice, Lent calls us to deepen our faith and our spirituality. All the practices we associate with Lent help us lean into ourselves so that we are in the process of being renewed and deepened in relationship with both God and neighbour.

Ash Wednesday's jumble of dissonant words and actions helps us begin this season of sacred truth-telling - grounded in awareness of what is deathly and fragile, but also drawn more deeply into the abundance of God's steadfast love. The invitation to return to God with all our being welcomes us as we are: our whole selves longing to be made new, always embraced by God's saving love in Christ.

However you decide to spend the next 40 days, keep your God and your neighbour in mind. May you have a blessed and holy Lenten journey. Pastor Norine

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our Congregation: Vicki, Jeff Obst, Ed, Jacqueline, Paul.

And Friends of the Parish: Tere, children -Briar & Alivia, Ed, George W., Lynne Z., Claude, Earl, Darlene, Amy, Barb Le Blanc.

We pray for all who dealing with chronic health issues. P+Norine

March 2023



BIRTHDAYS

March 8th—Mellissa Watt

March 11th—Randy Zimmerling

March 15th—Jacqueline Bertrand

March 20th—Elmer Leeck

March 25th—Pr. Stan Johnstone

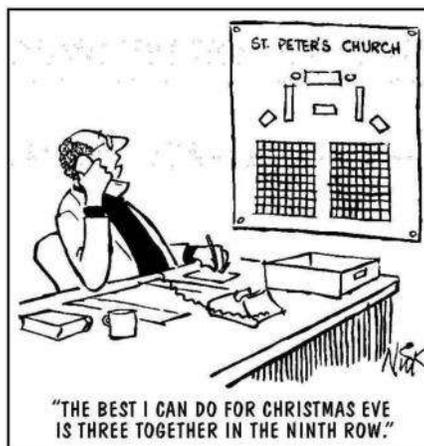
March 29th—Lorne Bretzlaff

March 30th—Blake Zimmerling

March 30th—Jo Anne Bretzlaff



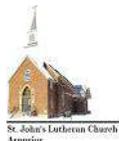
Thanks to Stephen Illieh (See Genesis 6-8) 03-19-2003
WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS



"THE BEST I CAN DO FOR CHRISTMAS EVE IS THREE TOGETHER IN THE NINTH ROW."

March 2023 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Thursday March 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00a.m. Prayer team meets every Thursday at 10a.m. in Pastor's office. 1:00p.m. Pastoral Care Team meets at Lois & Henry Rosien's.
Sunday March 5th (Live Stream)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LENT II—10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 Light lunch and Annual General Meeting.
Monday March 6 th	1:00p.m.— Church Council
Tuesday March 7 th	11:00 am—Livestreamed Funeral Service from ERB & Good Funeral Home Kitchener, for Rev. Dr. William David Huras, Bishop (Retired) , Trillium Lutheran Church with Bishop Michael Pryse, Bishop Susan Johnson, Rev. Mark Ehebracht and Rev. Elina Salonen all presiding. See www.erbgood.com- Bill's obit for the internet link.
Friday March 10 th	1:00p.m. —Midday prayers, Muslim community, lounge, every Friday.
Sunday March 12th	LENT III—10:30a.m. Worship service of Word & Prayer
Wed March 15 th	10:00a.m. Pastors meet in Rankin, Ont.
Saturday March 18 th	9:00a.m.—Men's Breakfast— Jim's Restaurant
Sunday Feb 19th	LENT IV—10:30a.m. Worship service of Word & Prayer
Monday March 20 th	1:00p.m.—Church Council
Tuesday March 21 st	8:30 p.m. Ramadan evening prayers begin, lounge, each evening 30 days.
Saturday March 25 th	10:00a.m.—2:00p.m. — Epilepsy Awareness Fundraiser - see ad
Sunday March 26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LENT V —10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion, guest musician~ Karen Prince; Birthday luncheon to celebrate Jo Anne Bretzlaff's 85th birthday!
Sunday April 2nd (Live Stream)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PALM SUNDAY 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion; 10:00a.m.—Noon: Sunday School



Minutes of the Feb 27th, 2023 Council Meeting

	Enid Blackwell	Pr. Norine	David Burkett
Attendance:	Debbie Witt	Randy Zimmerling	Andy Kalnins
	Fred Steinke	Rachel Roesner (Regrets)	

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

1. Rev. Lee Dyck opened with a devotion.
2. Rev. Dyck – First Baptist story of the 10 acres that was purchased in the 70's from Sullivan, and was used for Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Lately, several plans done by an architect friend in Ottawa have been looked at by some developers in Arnprior as well as by the town. The plan is to build a new community centre including church space in the middle of affordable housing that could be used for several activities. This is still in the early stages and could take up to five years before building will actually take place. They would also sell the existing church building.
3. **Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the January 16 minutes be approved as distributed. Fred Seconded **CARRIED** Dave moved that the minutes of January 30 meeting, in which a 2023 budget was approved for recommendation to members, be approved as distributed. Seconded by Andy **CARRIED**.
4. **AGM:** Plan for meeting discussed. A light lunch will be provided by Council.
5. **Council Nominations:** Debbie Witt and Andy Kalnins are up for re-election; will stand again. Rachel Roesner has submitted her resignation. Will need one person for one year to fill the spot. Randy Zimmerling has given his resignation as interim Treasurer effective after Annual Meeting, on March 5.
6. **Finance:** January financials are better than last year. Participation is strong. Anticipate members will embrace an increase of 5% to be requested at the AGM. Utilities likely up in next months. Motion by Andy to accept the financial report as presented, Dave seconded **CARRIED**
7. **Communications:** Memorium book update to be done by Gwen Steinke. 2 March socials, 5th AGM and 26th Jo Anne Bretzlaff 85th birthday. Enid brought forward if volunteer recognition plaques should continue or not. Consensus to recognize in other fashion, such as newsletter article, volunteer dinner.

Rentals: (Andy took chair) Request received from Vicki Weichenthal to rent basement, Saturday, March 25 for an Epilepsy Awareness fundraiser from 10-2 p.m.; handmade items, like mittens, earrings, jams, baking. Accepted. Andy moved, Debbie seconded that rent be 1/2 day rate of \$125. **CARRIED**

Request received from Baseem Bashir on behalf of local Muslim community to rent the lounge Fridays midday for 1 hour beginning March 3 until the end of April. Also, for Ramadan for 30 straight days from March 22 to April 21, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Kanata Muslim Association to confirm liability insurance coverage. Enid moved, Fred seconded, approval for this usage of the lounge, barring any times required by St. John's. **CARRIED** Andy moved a proposed total rental charge of \$1,400, Fred seconded. **CARRIED**.

Renewal Team (Enid in chair) – Debbie reported members Andy Kalnins, Jeff Kargus, Mellissa Watt, Beryl Richardson, Debbie Witt, P+Norine Gullons and Enid Blackwell have met twice so far; focus on making church environment welcoming and nurturing to all: rejuvenating our culture while looking at improving resources, building a diverse, inclusive faith community, team building, considering space usage options and opportunities to give back.
8. **Pastor's Report:** Ministry busy: many home visits, meetings, funerals (broader community assistance), joint parish Ash Wednesday service, and administrative work. Two teens, Zach Zimmerling (St. John's) and Courtney Van DerPleog (St. James), will have confirmation instruction starting in March via ZOOM.
9. **Outreach:** Chilli 'n' Soup Bowl earned \$910 for CLWR, will be quadrupled. Most guests were church members and their families so need to expand this circle. English Tea event planned for Lutheran camperships in May around Charles' coronation.

Continued over —>

Council Minutes continued,

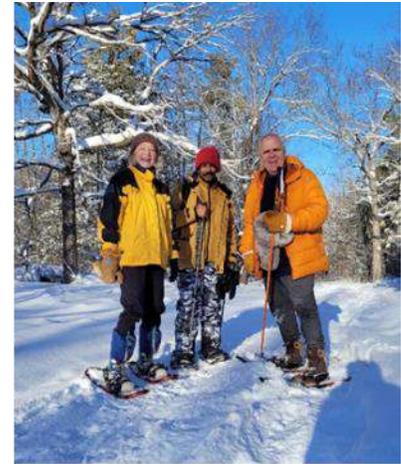
- 10. Property:** Randy has agreed to take over as Property Chair. Need to build another dolly for storage of chairs etc. Steinke family have donated one for use of transferring chairs etc. for social setup. Randy has purchased a shed to be assembled in the Spring. Cleaning contract discussed with Judy who will manage hours to the \$1,500 budget. Periodic snow removal from sidewalks by town being sought.
- 11. Technology:** Dave has asked for feedback on services with changed routine, but has received none. He will reinstall the mic back on pulpit to assist, when not livestreaming and the Madonna mic used.
- 12. Health & Safety:** NO REPORT
- 13. Operations Matter – NO REPORT**
- 14. Children and Youth:** Dave read from report from Alison. There have been 2 successful Sunday School Rocky Railway sessions. Overall feedback has been positive on the program. Adjustments are ongoing as concerns arise. No Sunday School for March; next one will be April 2. Season of Creation services may involve youth in September. Oct. to Dec. a possible non-VBS curriculum for 40 minutes, once a month, at 10:30, and children come up for communion. Focus on kids' needs, and awareness of limited planning time of parents/leaders.
- 15. Other/New Business:** Dave suggested process be established to better handle new ideas, such as the revised proposal concerning possible conversion of lounge into a studio apartment. What process to determine how a new proposal comes to council for consideration and decision, and perhaps forward to members, or is modified or goes away? Recommended that appropriate committee or team (e.g., Outreach, Worship) consider idea, review and decide on presenting it to council for consideration. Further, recommended that the Long Range Planning Team, to be formed following the AGM, be charged with consideration of any major new idea related to future property and finance plans. Agreed to add information item on this to AGM agenda, placement before financial reports.
Dave also brought forward an offer with respect to Treasurer position.
- 16. a.** Planning Cycle (through June).
b. Closing – Round Table and Prayer
c. Next meetings: March 6 at 1:00. March 20 at 1:00

The closest I get to a
spa day is when
steam from the
dishwasher smacks
me in the face.

IF YOU'RE BUYING A
WATCH FROM AMAZON,
BE WARNED. I LEARNED
THE HARD WAY THAT IF IT
SAYS YOU CAN SWIM WITH
IT, THIS ONLY APPLIES IF
YOU CAN ALREADY SWIM
WITHOUT IT.

NOTICES

Andy Kalnins & friends in Ottawa Valley Active Transportation Assoc. received the county Warden's Community Service Award for a non-profit group. His casual dress style carries over into ceremonies with big wigs, 'cause he'd rather be out leading snowshoeing on a country road.



CAMP LUTHERLYN



Summer Employment Opportunities

- **We are currently taking applications for summer employment:**
 - **Waterfront Director** June 26-August 19 (8 weeks)
 - **Lifeguard/Counselor** July 2-28 & August 13-18 (5 weeks)
 - **Counselor** July 2-28 & August 13-18 (5 weeks)
 - **Summer Maintenance Support Person** June 26-August 19 (8 weeks)

Job Descriptions are posted on our website. Please submit your application for any of the positions by March 1, 2023 through the Employment page at www.lutherlyncamp.ca.

Should you wish to donate towards Easter flowers for the altar, please use the third line on your offering envelopes and write "**flowers**" on it.

A person asked me the cost and one mum plant is about 20\$.

If flowers are in memory of someone, please inform Pastor Norine.

Thank you.

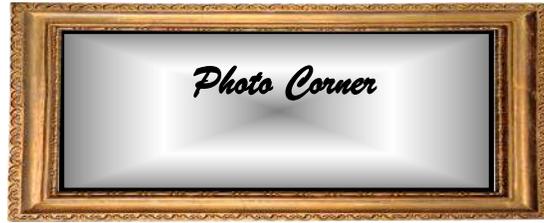


Photo Corner



Welcoming Karen Greening into St. John's, February 19
(photo: Enid)



Kathy Tonkin, Snack Pack program initiator, meets Pr. Stan Johnstone, Compassion Justice grant committee member, thanks to Jeff Kargus, Food Bank volunteer and application writer. February 26
(Photo: Lorne Rueckwald)



Vicki Weichenthal is renting the downstairs to host a fundraiser for Epilepsy Ottawa, an organization which has been very helpful to her. It relies on grants and personal donations. Come and support her if you can! Saturday, March 25, 10-2 p.m. Pictured are some of many hand and homemade items for sale. Lots of good jam! - blueberry, raspberry, strawberry & 4-berry.



thank you

THANK YOU FOR PANCAKES!

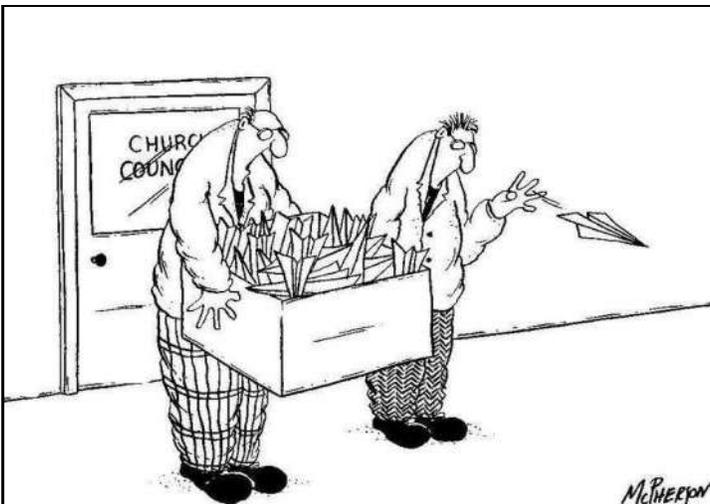
On February 26, when Pr. Stan and Judy Johnstone were with us, Debbie and Jeff Kargus prepared a special social with pancakes, which we could not quite fit in before Lent. We were all too busy enjoying delicious buttermilk pancakes (with butter, strawberries and maple syrup) and talking to get any photos!



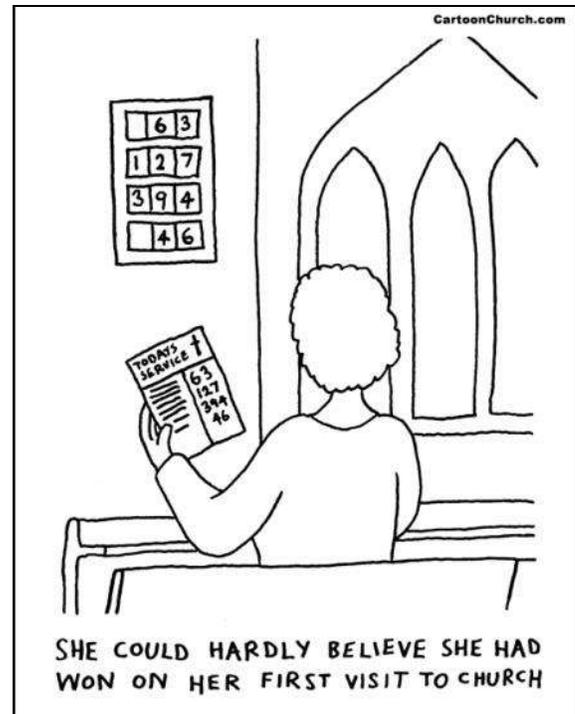
Thank You!

Jeff Obst expresses his thanks to Pastor Norine and the good people of St. John's for past and continuing prayers and care as he deals with cancer. He will have a bit more treatment soon, but is doing very well.

We do keep you in thought and prayer, Jeff, and think of you, your dad Eric and family often!

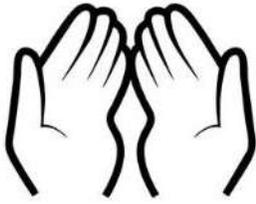


"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."



SHE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE SHE HAD WON ON HER FIRST VISIT TO CHURCH

Welcome to Another Faith Community: Islamic Neighbours



Presently the local Muslim community has their nearest mosque in Kanata, and so they sometimes meet in a member's basement in Arnprior. Following Congregational Council discussions and deciding initial rental, insurance and logistics details together, up to 20-25 people plan to meet for prayers in the lounge in March through May 12 as follows:

- Each Friday midday for Friday Prayers, beginning March 10: 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- Each evening for Ramadan Prayers for 30 days, beginning March 21: 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Please do not use the building during these times.

We welcome this faith community to our building and give thanks for the opportunity to be of service to our neighbours. Below is some information about the Islamic faith.

The holy season of Ramadan lasts 1 month. This time includes devotion to God, community gratefulness and helping others. Fasting during the day shows devotion to God. It is important to be grateful for what you have. One needs to care about people living in poverty and helping others. Prayers are the worship liturgy. The Quran is the sacred scripture. Eid al fitr – the end of Ramadan is like Christmas for us.

The 5 pillars or duties of Islam:

1. Believe in one God and Prophet Muhammad as his last messenger.
2. Pray 5 times a day- facing north east with shoes off; morning/noon/mid-afternoon/dusk/night
3. Give money to the poor
4. Fast for Ramadan
5. Pilgrimage to Makkah

There are some similarities between Islam, Judaism & Christianity: All three originated in the Middle East. We are all monotheistic, which means we believe in one God. All believe that God's word is revealed in their Holy Books.

All 3 are ethical religions. Concerned to ensure that their followers should lead morally upright lives, in accordance with the will of God.

Muslims respect Jesus as one of the great prophets, who taught people the gospel. They believe he was a perfect man, born of the virgin Mary, who was taken up to heaven, & will return before the day of judgement. They believe he was a man not God.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Enid or P+ Norine. Thank you for welcoming and supporting this faith community in their spiritual journey.

Chili 'n' Soup Bowl for CLWR, Saturday, February 11

On February 11, St. John's Lutheran Church, Arnprior hosted a very successful "chili and soup" dinner. Thanks to the support of our volunteers and community, we exceeded all expectations. A generous portion of positive feedback was received from many of our patrons saying "we will definitely be back next time. This was great!"



All proceeds from the fundraiser (\$910.00) has been donated to Canadian Lutheran World Relief in support of their "emergency food" appeal.

Three masked chefs for Chili 'n' Soup Bowl event for CLWR: Cathy Z. Maureen R., Debbie K.

Cousins



"Hurry up—take the picture—I'm hungry!"

Soup Masters



Bretzlaff Brethren, 'Sistren' and Friends



Friends Karima and Abed and family happily joined us





VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2023

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUN-TERS	SOCIAL
March 5th	Kathy Tonkin	Beryl & Keith	Bob & Debbie	Mel & Marion	Council & Barb F.
March 12th	Mark Boese	Beryl & Keith	Bob & Debbie	Mel & Marion	
March 19th	Mellissa Watt	Beryl & Keith	Bob & Debbie	Mel & Marion	
March 26th	Karen Greening	Beryl & Keith	Bob & Debbie	Mel & Marion	Joanne Bretzlaff Birthday!
April 2nd	Andy Kalnins	Barbara & Gerald	Cory & Andy (Enid)	Cory & Andy (Enid)	

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