



The Mustard Seed

March 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
Dave Burkett	618-5729
Fred Steinke	298-5017
Mellissa Watt	858-9932
Pastor Norine	623-4562

See us on facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior
On the web: stjohnsarnprior.com

Message from the Pastor

Lent takes over the whole month of March this year. It is a church season in which we are reminded of our mortality, beginning with Ash Wednesday, as we are marked by dust and ashes.

Lent begins in the wilderness. We are so tempted to stay put, to stay comfortable, and stay safe, and yet God's Spirit continues to grab hold of us, and throw us out, into the wilderness parts of the world, not only to stand with, walk with, and lift up those who are hurting, but also to share the love and promise of God with them. Maybe that's why the Spirit keeps throwing us out there – into the wilderness – because when we walk with each other, and lift each other up in our pain and struggles – even in the simplest way, God is right there with us, giving us hope, providing us peace, and transforming our wilderness into sacred space!

Lent is the church year's "spring time". Out of the cold and darkness of winter emerges a people – the church – reborn in their Lord's Easter Resurrection. Lent calls us to take time out and look back on the impact of our baptism on our lives. How are we doing? Is there something that needs to change? As a spiritual discipline, the old tradition remains. Some of us stop doing things – the idea of giving "things" up, like shopping, chocolate, smoking etc . . . and some of us add an activity – quite often a spiritual element into our daily lives.

Whatever Lenten practice you decide to observe, or whatever you drop from doing, may your Lenten days be blessed with God's presence.

Sincerely, P+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

March 2024 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Fridays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge Beginning March 10th—Ramadan: Prayers each evening at Sunset in the Hall
Wednesday Mar 6 th & 13 th	6:00-7:00p.m. Dance in the Hall
Thursdays	10:00a.m. — Prayer group meets
Sunday March 3rd	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word, (Lay-led)
Sunday March 10th	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service
Saturday March 16 th	9:00a.m. — Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s
Sunday March 17th	<p style="text-align: center;">10:30 Worship Service with Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30—Sunday School —”Noah’s Ark” Potluck Lunch following service AGM follows lunch New Council meets following the AGM
Sunday March 24th Palm Sunday	10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion
Friday March 29th Good Friday	10:30a.m. — Worship Service
Sunday March 31st Easter	<p style="text-align: center;">10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>



Draft Minutes of February 19, 2024 Council Meeting

Attendance:

Andy Kalnins	Pr. Norine (Zoom)	Fred Steinke
Enid Blackwell	Debbie Witt	Mellissa Watt
	David Burkett	

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Pr. Norine opened with a devotion and prayer.

- 1. Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the January 22, 2023 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Fred, CARRIED.
- 2. Finance:** Enid presented the January 2024 finance report, noting offering to commitments is good, expenses as expected in first month, and receipt of memoriam donations in memory of Lois and Henry Rosien under other income. Enid moved that report be accepted as presented, seconded by Mellissa, CARRIED. The 2023 draft year end profit and loss and balance sheet statements were reviewed and the positive net income noted. Financial review is underway. A proposed 2024 budget was reviewed. Enid motioned, seconded by Fred, that the budget be presented to members at the March 17 Annual Meeting, pending final adjustments including some increase to budgeted commitments.
- 3. Long Range Planning:** Each Council Member was to review the LRP report from last meeting. They presented their views on the report with many noted constructive suggestions. It was then discussed in length and an overview will be presented to members at a special meeting in April for further deliberation.
- 4. Close of Meeting:** Pastor closed with a prayer. This meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting: AGM & Council Meeting **Sunday March 17** following Service.

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our Congregation: Ed, Jacqueline, Paul, Dorothy, June, Vicki, Samantha, P+ Norine.

Friends: Tere, children Briar and Alivia, Lynne Z., Claude, Bob & Roy.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Annual General Meeting is rapidly approaching. It is on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, and will be preceded by a regular service and a Pot Luck Lunch. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and the Pot Luck is being organized by Debbie Kargus, so we do not end up with 12 plates of butter-tarts. (I would not object, but that is just me)

The Annual General Meeting (or AGM) is an important requirement of our church's constitution. Without an AGM our little church cannot exist and the church cannot exist without a church council. Few people would choose our AGM or any AGM as a venue for a good time. But it is a bit like visiting the dentist or a doctor for a check-up. It is a time to take a snapshot of existing conditions like finances, the state of the building and the state of the ministry. There will be a motion put forward to accept the budget after it is presented by the treasurer. There will be time to ask questions and raise concerns.

There also will be elections for church council as four positions are open on our six seat council. One council member has reached the end of council service time after 3 terms and will not be eligible to return. I would encourage folks to consider stepping up to this important role. The time commitment is one meeting a month. Depending on one's enthusiasm level there can be a lot more than that, but it is understood that folks with busy lives, family, work, and other commitments are limited in what they can do.

One thing that being chair of council does is revealing the part of the duck that is underwater. When a visitor comes to SJL and sits in a pew they see the beauty of the church and feel the serenity of the service. They do not see the work in getting readers and greeters, the bills that have been paid to keep the lights on, the collection money counted, the humidifiers that have been filled, the caulking work on the roof, the work to get music on the screen, the dressing of the altar, and the creation of butter-tarts for socials. (sorry for the second mention of butter-tarts).

I have been privileged to have served as chair of council for the last year. I have received more than I gave, learned more than I taught, and even had fun in the process. By all measures it has been a humbling and gratifying task and I thank you all for the privilege.

March 2024



BIRTHDAYS

- March 8th—Melissa Watt*
- March 11th—Randy Zimmerling*
- March 15th—Jacqueline Bertrand*
- March 20th—Elmer Leeck*
- March 25th—Pastor Stan Johnstone*
- March 29th—Lorne Bretzlaff*
- March 30th—Blake Zimmerling*
- March 30th—Joanne Bretzlaff*



World Day of Prayer

“I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love”

Ephesians 4:1-3

A STORY OF FLOURISHING

I am Nora from Jerusalem. I was born in Palestine and grew up in Jerusalem Jordan. Since 1967, I have lived under occupation in Jerusalem.

My parents and other family members survived the Armenian genocide so they know what suffering is, and what humans can do to each other. It is not the will of God to see people killed. My grandfather wanted us to look at what suffering does and how we can do things for a better world. For us, he hoped “that they will learn to scorn injustice and face hardship, never get discouraged, and become leaders in control of their lives and models of behavior to others.”

My father’s family had been pharmacists in Nicomedia - modern Turkey - and lost two pharmacies to the Turks. In Jerusalem, they started a pharmacy with the Harami family on Mamilla Road, which they lost, with other possessions in 1948. They were refugees in Lebanon and Syria until the Lutheran World Federation brought back professionals to Jerusalem at the beginning of the 1950s to build up the new reality. My father served at the Augusta Victoria Hospital as a pharmacist and established, with Dr. Mohammad Naquib Husseini, the x-ray department.

How we can do things to create a better world is very much a part of World Day of Prayer. My introduction to World Day of Prayer was through my mother who was one of the Armenian readers in Jerusalem. I also became a reader. By 1994, which was the year Palestine was invited to write the service “Go, see and act”, I was nominated by the Armenian Patriarch to represent my church.

In 2017, Palestine, again, was invited to write the service. When the World Day of Prayer International Committee choose the theme, because we did not suggest it, they had in mind the situation of the Middle East. We saw it as a message to us personally ... how do we bear with one in another in love and unity. An alternative motive was to see if we could bring about understanding in this troubled area.

The whole world is troubled, and so the voices of women speaking up loudly, not only about their suffering but also their hope is really what makes this movement a unique movement.

I work for justice. This is the only way to live ... respecting others but speaking my mind. When we moved to Jerusalem, we did not want to be secluded. I learned Armenian at home, grew up in the Orthodox faith of the Armenian Apostolic Church, but studied at a Catholic school run by the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion and then attended Protestant universities. My husband was Greek Orthodox, and I have worked with both the Armenian and Greek Orthodox churches.

One of my current prayer requests for Palestine is the end of the occupation ... but it will not bring peace. It is important to take people out of their boxes ... for everyone to see people as equals, living in dignity and equality ... having real freedom as human beings. Reeducation is needed. Let us work together to make sure that global justice is done.

Aging

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me.

I want people to know why I look this way.

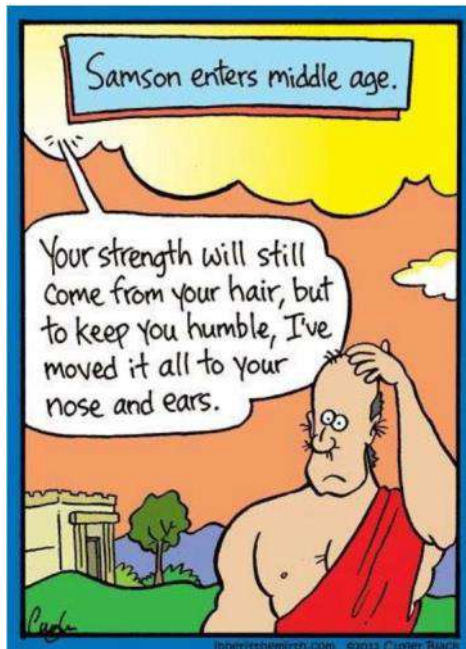
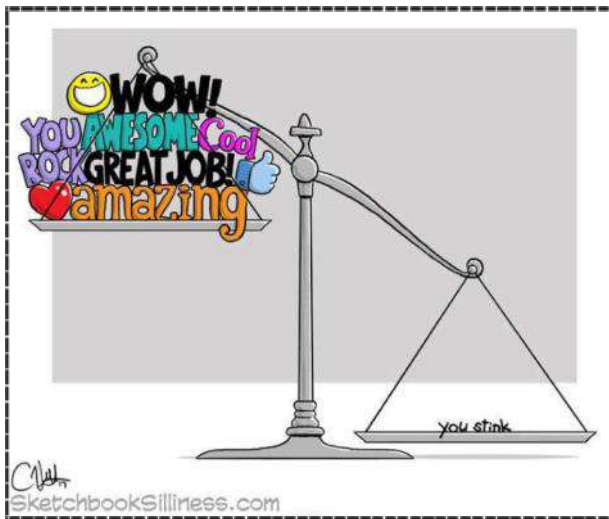
I've travelled a long way and a lot of the roads were not paved.

Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

May you always have:

Love to share, Cash to spare, Tires with air, And Friends who care.



- My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.

- I went to buy some camo pants but couldn't find any.
- I failed math so many times at school, I can't even count.
- I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke.
- I was wondering why the frisbee kept getting bigger and bigger, but then it hit me.
- I heard there were a bunch of break-ins over at the car park. That is wrong on so many levels.
- I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather... Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.
- When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.
- Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.
- It takes a lot of balls to golf the way I do.



The **Long-Range Planning Team** has concluded their work. The team consisted of Dave Burkett, Karen Greening and Lorne Rueckwald. A detailed report was discussed at council meetings in January and February. The result is a set of 8 initiatives that council is bringing to the congregation for discussion

and approval at a Congregational Meeting to be held in April (date yet to be determined). The initiatives cover:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Should we sell the building? | 5. Building Reserve Fund |
| 2. Our future Ministerial needs | 6. Volunteer Burnout |
| 3. An investment in Youth | 7. External Fundraising |
| 4. Worship | 8. Renovation for Rental Income |



EV Zoominar

Looking at an Electric Vehicle?

Basics, Myths, and Misinformation

Want to reduce your carbon footprint?

Join our ZOOMINAR March 7th @7pm

Sponsored by the Climate Justice Action Group

To Register [CLICK HERE](#)

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The very first time the phrase: ***“can you scroll back up”*** was used.



1. I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?

2. You measure my life in hours and I serve you by expiring. I'm quick when I'm thin and slow when I'm fat. The wind is my enemy.

3. I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?

4. What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?

Answers on last page.

March 2024 Newsletter Report – Youth

UNPLUG April 8th: Total Solar Eclipse Event - ** HYBRID **

If you have email, you'll have received notice of an **UNPLUG** field trip on April 8th to the Kingston area to see the total solar eclipse. We're inviting "unaccompanied" adults to the event as well as kids who attend along with an adult – our usual crowd. Andy Kalnins is leading this event – well, to be honest, God is leading the major event and Andy (an avid astronomer) will participate as



colour commentary for it; and, he'll lead some eclipse-related **activities** for both kids and adults. We have some great material from sources like the Canadian Space Agency, NASA, Scientific American, and Sky and Telescope. Alison is the UNPLUG host for the event. We're pre-ordered a number of pairs of eclipse glasses – some that will fit children and others that fit teens and adults. We have 19 people registered so far with another family of five who has expressed interest.



**** Late Breaking News ****: we've decided to hold this event as a hybrid. (You know, like hybrid work-at-home!) Some people will come on the field trip and others can virtually attend the event at St. John's; the St. John's attendees will get protective glasses and we'll have leaders there for the great eclipse-related activities. Or, a third option, is people can sign up for the event to attend at home – get their pairs of glasses and have the activities emailed to them. If you are interested, please email UNPLUG.SJL@gmail.com to register. The registration fee is \$5 per person (adult or child) and it includes eclipse glasses for each person.



Sunday School

Sunday School is underway for the winter/ spring term, with a plan to hold 5 classes before June. January was too busy for our young families (illness, and winter activities) to hold a Sunday School. The February class "Cain and Abel" was led by Jessica and Rob. I'm told it focused on the theme of loving and looking after each other - the whole "Am I my brother's keeper?" thing, and just skimmed over "the one killed the other" thing!

Our March 17 class will be on "Noah's Ark" and will be led by Melissa and Nathan.

THANK YOU !



On February 7th Karen Greening presented our “Teachers Against Poverty” fundraiser proceeds of \$930 to Natalie Spratt.

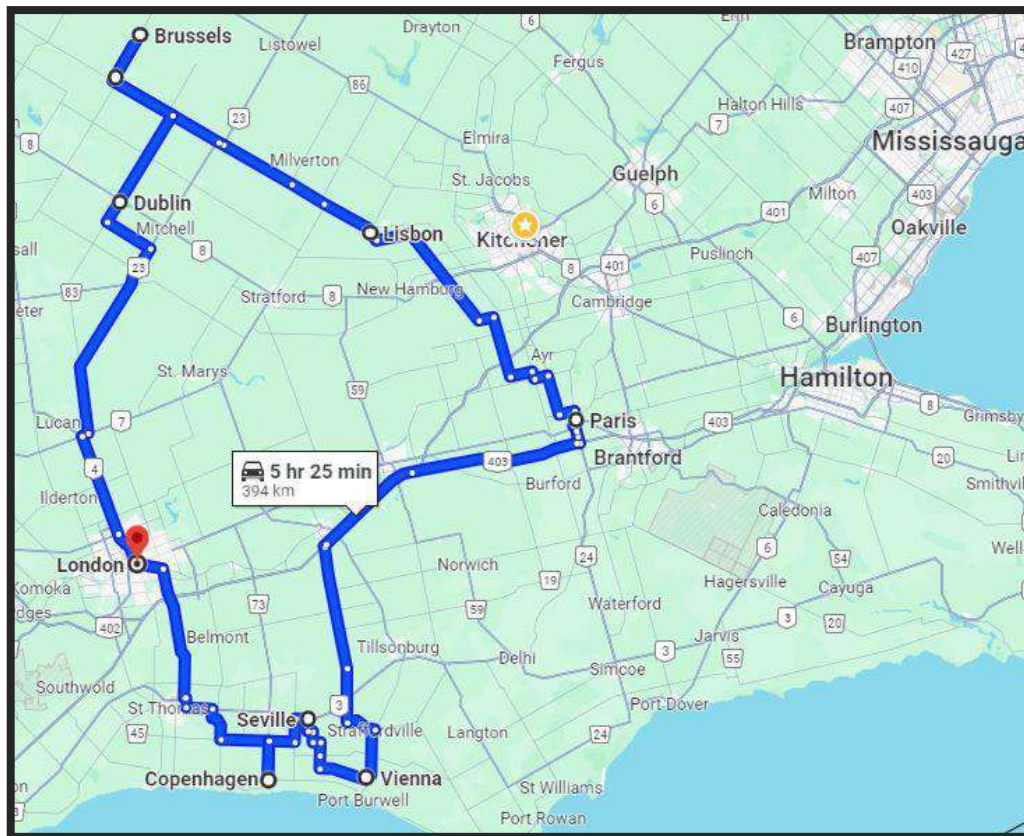
Natalie is one of many caring teachers, and a leader of the TAP program, doing their best to provide a healthy

snack to kids coming to school hungry.

This may be a result of not eating breakfast and/or having little to no food for lunch.



WHEN YOU CAN'T AFFORD A TRIP TO EUROPE





VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREET-ERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
Mar 3rd	Mark Boese	Beryl & Keith	Cathy & Randy	Elmer & Marion		Lorne R
Mar 10th	Karen Greening	Beryl & Keith	Cathy & Randy	Elmer & Marion		Lorne R
Mar 17th	Bob Witt	Beryl & Keith	Cathy & Randy	Elmer & Marion	Potluck & AGM	Lorne R
Mar 24th	Ryan & Julie Family	Beryl & Keith	Cathy & Randy	Elmer & Marion		Lorne R
Mar 29th Good Friday	Good Friday Readers	Beryl & Keith	Cathy & Randy	Elmer & Marion		Lorne R
Mar 31st Easter	Joy Statham	Beryl & Keith	Cathy & Randy	Elmer & Marion		Lorne R

Riddle Answers: 1: An echo 2: A candle 3: A map 4: The Letter R

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