

The Mustard Seed

May 2021

The Monthly Newsletter
of
*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

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

Pastor:

Norine Gullons 613-282-5032
Church Office: 613-623-4562

Church Council

Enid Blackwell	623-7017
Debbie Witt	623-1500
Dave Burkett	618-5729
Cory Weckwerth	793-3701
Andy Kalnins	863-0202
Alison Burkett	618-5716

See us on facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior

On the web: stjohnsarnprior.com

Pastor's Message

I recently sent an email to a cousin of mine. She wanted to know how I was doing. I replied, "it feels like we are strung out on a clothesline between apprehension and hope." I think this is a good image for where we all are at this time. There is of course, great hope in hearing who has received their Covid vaccines. There are also many people who are apprehensive about the days ahead as they listen to the media and watch the statistics for their own regions. We need to stay aware and be cautious about how we proceed through our days. If nothing else this time in history has taught us that our activity is limited. In other words, we can dream and plan all we want, but "nature" may change everything.

To further the conversation about hope and apprehension please join me on **Thursday May 13th at 7pm via a Zoom call.** **The link will be sent out to you ahead of time.** In this recent lockdown I have not been able to see anyone of you, and this doesn't feel right – even though necessary - to your Pastor.

In other news St. James has moved their Deconsecration Service to May 30th at 10a.m. They need to vacate their church premises by June 14. Please keep the faith filled people of St. James in your prayers.

Let us pray: We pray dear Lord, that in the month of May you will continue to bless us, and renew our weary world and community. Help each and every one of us to remember that it is only through you and by the grace of God that we are able to be who we are and do what we need to do every day. We take comfort in knowing that we are yours and that you love us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Pastor 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

May Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT
Sunday May 2nd	Fifth Sunday in Easter: pre-recorded Service with Holy Communion available on YouTube.
Saturday May 8 th	UNPLUG meeting via Zoom 10:00am
Sunday May 9th	Sixth Sunday of Easter: pre-recorded Service of Word and Prayer available on YouTube.
Thurs May 13 th	Cluster Pastors meet via zoom call. Congregational visit via Zoom call 7:00pm
Sunday May 16th	Seventh Sunday of Easter: pre-recorded Service of Word and Prayer available on YouTube.
Monday May 17 th	Church Council meets via ZOOM call. Time TBD
Sunday May 23rd	Pentecost Sunday: pre-recorded Service with Holy Communion available on YouTube.
Sunday May 30th	Holy Trinity Sunday pre-recorded Service of Word and Prayer available on YouTube.

Continuation of Online and Script Worship and ZOOM with P+Norine May 13

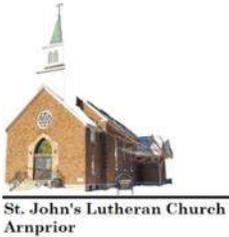
St. John's continues with online services and delivery of scripts for the present, in line with current 'stay at home' guidelines, safety of the faith community and counsel from Bishop Michael.

Congregational council will advise by newsletter, and/or email and written or phone notice when in person worship is resuming.

Do keep those phone and remote connections going beyond your household, and especially remember those members and friends living alone. You can always leave a message at 613 623-4562 or contact a council member with any questions, needs and concerns.

And, if you can, **do schedule in Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m. on your calendars for a Zoom meeting with P+ Norine.** Pastor will host a meetup so we can connect, give feedback on our services, and provide suggestions and support.

As always, thank you for faithful care, support and hope. Stay safe and well!



Council Meeting Minutes

April 15th 2021

Attendance (via ZOOM)

Enid Blackwell
Jeff Kargus
Alison Burkett

David Burkett
Andy Kalnins

Pr. Norine
Debbie Witt

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 and Pastor opened with a devotion.

Check in round.

1. **Previous Minutes:** Dave moved that the March 15, 2021 minutes be approved with the clarification regarding Cathy's appointment as Financial Secretary, Debbie seconded. **CARRIED**
2. **Finance:** Alison presented the P&L showing Actual vs. Budget, and the Balance Sheet. Alison provided explanations for all the variances. Should we need to re-hire a caretaker, the impact to the budget would be an additional \$800. A special appeal may be needed to cover this. It was agreed that milage for script delivery be reimbursed at the rate of \$0.45 per km. On the Balance Sheet: 1) Alison noted that the change in the Lutheran Foundation of -\$1,384, was from the 2020 interest of \$1,782 which was paid out in February plus \$378 earned for 2021 Q1 and that the account has been changed to keep the interest in the account. 2) The Asset value of the Building and Land was increased from \$280,000 to \$302,000 per the MPAC assessment.

Alison has sent in the application for Insurance renewal.

Andy moved and seconded by Debbie "That the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.", **CARRIED**

3. Children, Youth, Family:

UNPLUG: Alison announced that Sue Neville has accepted the position of UNPLUB coordinator. Jeff outlined the garden project – 2 beds in the back corner of the lot. Preference is for 2 x 4'x8' galvanized bins. If they are not available, then he will build using wood. Jeff to provide a Composter. 2 rain barrels are being installed. Andy moved that council approve Jeff's plan for the gardens, composter and rain barrels. Debbie seconded, **CARRIED**

Jeff outlined the community gardens grant program. Council approved the application – Jeff and Alison to prepare the proposal.

Alison moved that we request Camp Lutherlyn to allow certificates for a discount for a child going to camp to be included in the package being prepared for distribution to households. Debbie seconded. **CARRIED.**

Alison moved and Dave seconded if the Camp doesn't approve the above request, that we fund the coupons up to \$500 from anticipated givings on Camp Sunday.

Alison and Jeff departed

Phoenix created cards for easter baskets. Discussion around involving youth at camp Sunday or other services.

4. **Pastor's report:** Pastor presented her report. St. James closing to June 14th. De-consecration service will be on May 30th. It is unknown if the Bishop will be able to attend or not, Pastor preparing should he not be able to attend.
5. **Communications:** Enid presented her report outlining the Facebook postings, the contacts with the congregation. 20 Easter baskets were delivered. Thanks to Phoenix, Andy/Anda, P+Norine, Cathy/Randy, Debbie/Bob Witt. ELW book distribution is on hold for now.
6. **Outreach:** Andy commented on the success of the solar light (\$1106 received as of Newsletter). Andy to reach out to Jeff regarding the Big Give, and discuss the right timing. **Continued over>>>**

Council Minutes, continued.

7. **Constitution renewal.** Debbie reported that the document has had the formatting updated. She will contact Wendell re the model constitution.
8. **Property Update:** Dave reported on the Alicia street reconstruction. Exact start date is now set yet, but is anticipated to start sometime in June and continue through end of August. They have no plans on working weekends, so access to Sunday services should be ok. They will ensure we have unobstructed access to the rear door. Regarding the drainage connection from the church to the new sewers, If they find an existing connection they will reconnect, if not, then the connection must be on McLachlin St. We don't need to coordinate any of our potential drainage work with them. Dave reported on the discussions with Judy to return to do the cleaning. When we re-open, we will need a crew to do a cobweb type cleaning, as Judy can't do that. During the worst of the early spring wet weather (when the ground was still frozen), we had a bit of water in the furnace room, not serious. Gerald continues to monitor.
9. **Technology:** Dave presented viewing stats (continues to average 40 viewers per service) and plans for changes to the AV station.
10. **Other Business**

NEXT MEETING: May 17th (time TBD).

Adjournment: 8:50

PRAYER LIST

We normally have this list on our Sunday bulletin.

Please pray for these people in your daily prayer:

From both congregations: Chris & Kathy, Ed & Rosemary, Linda & family, Joe & Shelley, Vicki, Elmer

Friends of the Parish: Joan, Leslie, Tere B., Lorraine, Mary, Lucille, Spencer and Brenda.

We pray for all medical personnel caring for Covid patients, that they may be diligent in their tasks and full of grace and compassion.

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

STILL . . .



Meet Our Members.

A slight delay! Check in again here next month when we hope to have our first 'getting to know you' better member's story for you.

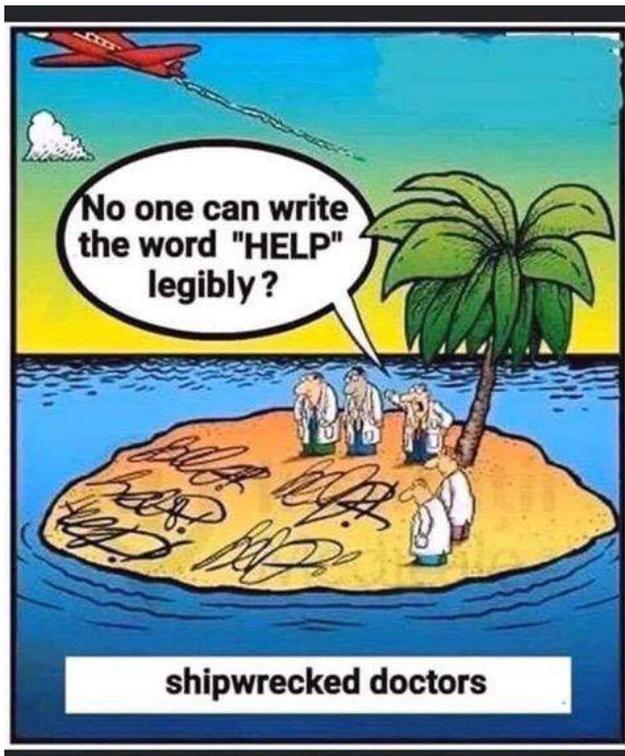
In it, you will get to know the story of one or more of our members, those with forever ties, and those with more recent membership.

We may 'know' one another to some extent, but probably less than we think. This is a chance to do some sharing and some thanking and to improve our ability to work together and include and affirm one another. And in these times of limited socializing, strengthening our connections in other ways becomes more important.

So, if someone phones to chat a bit with you about 'you', don't worry about it! It should be fun and easy. It is totally your choice, and you will get to ok the writeup. And if you can provide a photo, great!

RELIGIOUS JOKES

A little nine year old girl was in church with her mother when she started feeling ill.
"Mommy," she said.
"Can we leave now?" "No," her mother replied.
"Well, I think I have to throw up!" "Then go out the front door and to the back of the church and throw up behind a bush." In about two minutes the little girl returned to her seat.
"Did you throw up?" her mother asked.
"Yes," the little girl replied.
"Well, how could you have gone all the way to the back of the church and return so quickly?"
"I didn't have to go out of the church, Mommy." the little girl replied.
"They have a box next to the front door that says, 'For the sick'."



May 2021



BIRTHDAYS

May 2—Melissa Kargus

May 3—Dorothy Homer

May 15—Andy Kalnins

May 23—Paula Mainprize

May 25—Keith Richardson

May 26—Clara Zimmerling

May 28—Marion Bretzlaff

ANNIVERSARIES

May 21—Keith & Beryl Richardson



Intercessory Prayer in the midst of the spread of COVID-19

O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Hear our cry, O God,

Listen to our prayer.

Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Hear our cry, O God,

Listen to our prayer.

Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to control and eliminate the coronavirus. Hear our cry, O God,

Listen to our prayer.

Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of all diseases, malaria, dengue, HIV & AIDS, and others [may be named out-loud or in silence]... that create suffering and often result in death for many people. Hear our cry, O God,

Listen to our prayer.

Heal our self-centeredness and indifference that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us, open ways beyond timidity and fear that too easily ignore our neighbor. Hear our cry, O God,

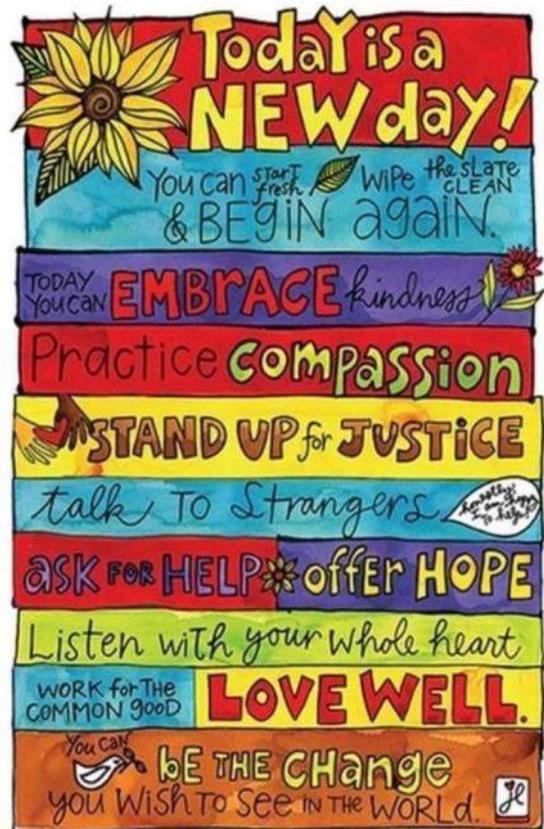
Listen to our prayer.

Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Hear our cry, O God,

Listen to our prayer.

Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine. Hear our cry, O God,

Listen to our prayer.





UNPLUG Youth Program

A quick update this month:

- With the extension of the Stay-at-Home order, we're now planning to start on Sunday **May 23rd** – with a trip to the Zimmerling Farm to see the baby animals.
- We are delighted to announce that we have hired Rev. Sue Nevile as our Program Coordinator for the UNPLUG Youth Program. Sue will begin next week, working on policies and procedures (COVID procedures among others) and helping with promotions.
- We may be looking for help to distribute flyers around the greater Arnprior area – those were successful for promoting yard sales, etc.

Any questions or offers to help that you have – please send to stjohnscommunications@gmail.com. We'd also love to hear if the children in your family will be coming out to UNPLUG somewhat regularly.

UNPLUG Planning Team: Alison, Enid, Ryan, Pastor Norine, Jeff,

Andy and Rev. Stan



Snack Pack Program

Last fall our Congregation was fortunate to receive a Compassionate Justice Grant of \$1000.00 from our Synod.

This grant money will be used to assist the Food Bank with the cost of purchasing healthy snacks for the Children's Snack Pack Program we help to support for the past five years.

Pastor Norine had a big smile under her mask as she handed over the cheque during her visit to the Arnprior and District Food Bank this April. Pat Tait was more than happy to accept the donation on behalf of the Arnprior and District Food Bank.



Hospice Renfrew is once again hosting a **Virtual Hike for Hospice** in early May. This replaces the 'real' community gathering and event that a number of us from St. John's participated in over the years as part of our Outreach ministry.

You are welcome to walk or hike sometime on or close to Sunday, May 2, with your household and donate, or just donate.

Here is a link for direct donations:

<https://micharityp2p.com/hikeforhospicerenfrew/>

Or to mail or phone in a donation:

Hospice Renfrew
59 Albert Street
Renfrew ON K7V 1V8
Phone 613-433-3993 Ext.2229

Thank you for remembering the hospice families and staff during these times.

ARNPRIOR CARES

Our friend Jean who worked in peacebuilding in African nations, met with us in 2015, and lived in Arnprior for over a year recently, now lives in Kitchener Waterloo and works in social research and peace programs. A Convention Refugee, he is now seeking his permanent residency status and hoping to bring his family to Canada. It has been over 3 years since they have been together!

Arnprior Cares, who are supporters here, together with supporters in KW, have helped Jean and his family through this time. This year, plans to raise funds for family reunification and settlement are being made, and we expect to have the opportunity to assist individually if we wish through Grace-St. Andrew's United Church or <https://www.arnpriorcares.ca> . More details will come. In the meantime, you may contact Theresa Dunn, 613 897-0188 if you wish further information at this time. Thank you for remembering Jean and his family in your prayers.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2021

DATE	READING	ALTAR	COUNTERS
May 2 nd	Joanne Bretzlaff	Joanne and Lorne	Mel and Marion
May 9 th	Cathy / Randy Zimmerling	Joanne and Lorne	Mel and Marion
May 16 th	Joy Statham	Joanne and Lorne	Mel and Marion
May 23 rd	Mark Boese	Joanne and Lorne	Mel and Marion
May 30 th	Maureen Rueckwald	Joanne and Lorne	Mel and Marion