



# The Mustard Seed

## May 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
Pastor Norine	623-4562

See us on facebook:

*St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior*

On the web: [stjohnsarnprior.com](http://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 the Chair of Council

As I sit down to write this, it is already the first of May. In some ways it seems like Christmas was just a few weeks ago, and Easter was just last weekend. But we are only 18 days away from Pentecost. The daffodils are in full vigour in gardens. In the forests, the trout lilies are popping up like little splashes of yellow paint being splattered on a dark canvas by an enthusiastic painter.

The flower of the trout lily opens at the morning sun and closes at dusk. On a sunny afternoon, the petals will be so open that they curve all the way back to the stem. It is as if the little flowers can't get enough of the sun's warmth, and do not want to miss a single errant photon!



That is a good thought for all of us to hold as we embrace the many blessings we will receive this month. Firstly, there is good news about Pastor Norine. As she transitions to being a retired pastor, her health is improving every day. One day, we as a church family are going to celebrate her wonderful presence here for what was almost a full decade. When that happens, we want Pastor Norine to be in full party mode, so she truly can have a wonderful time. That day is not quite here but, rest assured that it will happen.

On Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> our service will be led by Pastor Michael Hackbusch. His father was pastor at St. John's for about 7 years and perhaps some of you will remember the young Michael. Pastor Michael has grown up. He is a Captain with the Canadian Forces and currently is stationed at 4th Canadian Division Support Base Petawawa. His unit can be deployed at any time, with very short notice, and his priority, of course, must be serving our country. But let's be hopeful that he can be here on May 5<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, and May 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Continued—>*

## *Message from the Chair of Council, Continued*

Pastor Michael is quite talented musically, and for the month of May we will be abandoning our video screen. He will lead us in voice and perhaps a surprise instrument — (and I have a feeling he will not tolerate musical sluggards, which is a personal worry to me!)

Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> will be a day of sadness, joy, and remembrance as we help the Rosien Family say farewell to Henry and Lois. Pastor Stan Johnstone will be leading that day and Karen Prince will be doing the music. Service will commence at 11:00 am and will be followed by a light luncheon.

Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> is also a day to mark on your calendar. Marion Bretzlaff will be celebrating one of those milestone birthdays. Service will be led by Reverend Sylvia Poetschke. Pastor Sylvia spent many years working in the Canadian Corrections Service in Kingston. She currently has a parish in Magnetawan, but has Valley roots and spends some time here. We will also have an organist that day. It promises to be a service of full vigor, and we all we have earned the luncheon afterwards.

The trout lilies in the forests will be likely gone by June. As the trout lilies depart, there will be an explosion of trilliums in the forests. They, too, will have their day and be replaced by the deep green of summer. Everything in the forest has its day, and everything depends on a power far beyond the planet in the form of the sun.

At our church we have a May that is full of new things and new growth. It is an exciting time for sure. We have new pastors and music and even luncheons! So - what will June, July, August, and beyond bring? One thing for sure is challenges. Will we be able to get pastors for Sundays in the summer? What about the music? What if someone from far away applies to be pastor here? What if that does not happen? I would prefer to replace the word challenges with the word opportunities. With the work of the Long-Range Planning folks (Dave Burkett, Karen Greening, and Lorne Rueckwald) we have a compass and roadmap. We are not moving ahead in the dark

Like the forest flowers we, too, are dependent on the sun. But we have another tool and that is faith. Just as the flower of the little yellow trout lily opens up and follows the sun, let us do that with our faith.

Sincerely, Andy Kalnins

## **The Prayer Jar in the Narthex**

The confidential prayer jar is not presently in the narthex, but is being raised up. Please contact Barbara Formuziewich 613 622-1157 [baformuziewich@gmail.com](mailto:baformuziewich@gmail.com)

## **May 2024 Calendar**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
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.
<b>Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> — Pr. Michael Hackbusch</li> <li>• Following the Service—Presentation of the Long-Range Planning Report</li> <li>• Coffee Hour follows the Presentation</li> </ul>
<b>Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<p><b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> —Pr. Michael Hackbusch</p>
Monday May 13 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm — Church Council Meets
<b>Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> —Pr. Michael Hackbusch</li> <li>• Possible Sunday School date</li> </ul>
Saturday May 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00a.m. — Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s
<b>Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word</b> —Pr. Sylvia Poetschke</li> <li>• Marion Bretzlaff’s Birthday Celebration follows service</li> <li>• Possible Sunday School date</li> </ul>



St. John's Lutheran Church  
Arnprior

## *Minutes of April 17, 2024 Council Meeting*

### *Attendance:*

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Andy welcomed everyone.

- Previous Minutes:** Debbie moved that the March 17, 2023 minutes be accepted as distributed. Seconded by Fred, CARRIED.
- Long Range Planning:** Dave Burkett was present and gave an abbreviated presentation to Council Members slightly updated with the news of Pr. Norine's retirement last week. He reviewed possible scenarios over the next 5 years and 8 possible initiatives to work on, 2 of which, budgeting a reserve for property and funding of a 2024 youth ministry, were passed at the Annual Meeting. Council approved presentation of this information to the congregation, including recommendations to form or renew groups of two or more people to make recommendations on Mutual/pastoral Ministry, Worship, Volunteers, Property, Youth, External fundraising/outreach, Building renovation. Dave left the meeting; council agreed to schedule this presentation to congregation on Sunday, May 5, (and reviewed likely leads for varied groups?).
- Short Term Worship Plans** – Andy will take charge with Jeff and Enid to make a short term schedule. After our meeting on April 21 with Pr. Doug Reble to discuss our possible interim pastoral ministry options, further scheduling will be determined.
- Synod Assembly:** This meeting is June 20-22 in Mississauga. Our budget includes some \$1000 towards a lay and/or pastor delegate. No council member could offer to go. Alison Burkett offered to be our lay delegate, and Andy will confirm she is yet able to represent us.
- Camp Lutherlyn Rep.:** Alison Burkett has accepted this position as liaison, given P+ Norine's retirement.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

- Finance:** Enid presented the January – March 2024 finance report, noting that commitments received to date are \$20,290, with a monthly increase from \$6,300 to \$7,400 over the 3 months. To fully meet our budget of \$91,000 an additional increase of some \$1,000/month would be required. With Wednesday dance classes and a local fundraiser we hope to raise around \$2000 as budgeted. Enid requested approval to pay Pr. Malina for home communions, offering \$100. Bank balance as of the end of March is \$35,688 (of which \$5,000 "designated holdings", approximately \$3,800 – memoriam; \$1,000-youth. Enid moved that the financial report be accepted as presented. Mellissa Seconded CARRIED.
- Property:** Fred reported that the basement windows are being done and the front hand rails have been filled and painted. Electrical sub-panel work to be completed.

**Close of Meeting:** The meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, May 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

## Calling all Gardeners

Spring is here and it is soon time to plant our annual community garden. All vegetables grown in our two 4x8 raised beds have been donated to the Arnprior and District Food Bank in support of the ever growing food security needs in our community.



If you are willing to weed and water for a week or more during the months of June - September, that would be great!

There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex called **Garden Weeding & Watering**

Thank you all for your assistance over the past growing /harvesting seasons.

Please let Jeff know if you have questions or need any clarification.



At the April 21st service, Jeff read:

*“The Story of the Good Shepherd as Told by a Little Lamb”*, by Stephanie B. Blake. For those who missed that service, you can read the story here:

<https://onefocusministries.com/2013/08/01/the-story-of-the-good-shepherd-as-told-by-a-little-lamb/>

## 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](mailto:baformuziewich@gmail.com)

# UNPLUG & Total Solar Eclipse

As I was looking for a spring UNPLUG event, Andy Kalnins had a great suggestion – let's go see the April 8 Total Solar Eclipse – something that wouldn't happen again in our area in our lifetime.

We quickly got organized, ordered ISO-certified eclipse glasses and rented a room at the Kingston-Frontenac Library - Kingston was on the path of totality. 20 people decided to make the trip to Kingston.

We had inside, warm, space with washrooms (very important!) and a courtyard for great outside viewing. This picture shows most of our group several minutes before totality.



Andy Kalnins was the leader of the Kingston event – his enthusiasm was infectious. We also had some other library patrons who joined us in the courtyard; those without eclipse glasses were very thankful that we had extra glasses we could donate and they (and our group) were appreciative of Andy's knowledge.

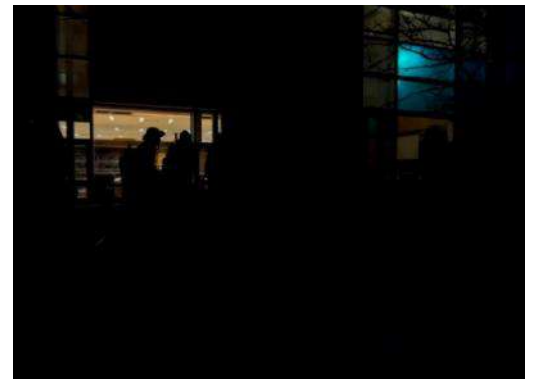
We were able to see, hear and feel the expected sights for a total solar eclipse. We felt it **get cold**; the sky turned a **wonderful shade of blue** just before totality; we saw the **diamond ring** effect (Dave Burkett is the photographer) just before and just after totality. And we heard a **lone agitated bird** (a seagull) just before totality.



**Totality** was truly spectacular. Here are 2 images – looking up at the sky (picture is from Andy's friend who watched the eclipse at Turkey Point) and in Kingston looking towards the library – it was dark!!.

Andy was interviewed by MyFM News: "Conditions allowed for an incredible viewing experience, he said. Kalnins said he's struggling to find words to describe the experience. Most all of those around him were just in awe."

Another 10 people met at St. John's – where Debbie and Bob Witt hosted. They enjoyed all of the prepared solar eclipse activities: preparing eclipse glasses holders, creating a solar eclipse with chalk, and building pinhole projectors as an alternate way to safely watch a solar eclipse. One of our Arnprior neighbours let me know "It was a fabulous event to share with everyone there!



Alison Burkett



A good friend and long-term church council member of St. Timothy's in Pembroke recently sent me a reminder note that he and others were praying for St. John's in this pastoral leadership transition period and praying that we would use this time wisely in **discernment** for what our next steps might be.

That got me thinking that although we are all saddened by the sudden departure of Pastor Norine there are a lot of things to be thankful for:

Over the years that she was here, Pastor Norine helped us rebuild a loyal base of Sunday worshippers. Before she came, our congregation had fallen to a core of less than 20 committed members; during her tenure we saw a surge of over 40 members in regular attendance a few years ago.

Pastoral care teams and Community outreach programs and activities were all restarted and became an important part of members' service and faith in action.

She established a weekly prayer group where lay and our pastor gathered in prayer.

She supported the decision to rent our facility to our Muslim friends and ensured they felt welcomed.

Lay leadership has never been more prominent or evident.

All the key 'committees' or programs including:

- Lay led services
- Youth programs
- Property upkeep and improvements
- Church governance
- Outreach programs
- Visitation of sick and shut-ins
- Long range planning
- 

are not dependent upon who is at the helm as pastor. We have dedicated and competent lay leadership that has been encouraged and enabled by Pastor Norine and that have visibly demonstrated they can stand and lead where and when necessary. That clearly is something to celebrate.

Over 10 years ago, we voted to ask Pr. Norine to be our Pastor and did so unanimously. I am certain we are all also in agreement that she has served us well leaving us stronger and better equipped than we were before she joined us. We thank God for that and wish her a well-deserved and an active and joy filled retirement.

What's next for us is still a bit like looking at a steam filled mirror. If we approach it as we did the hiring of Pastor Norine – prayerfully with honest discussion and seeking guidance and support and strive to be united, in our decisions, I am optimistic about our possibilities and ready to roll up my sleeves.

How about you?

Respectfully submitted, Randy Zimmerling

**“What Can I Say”**

What can I say that I have not said before?  
 So I'll say it again.  
 The leaf has a song in it.  
 Stone is the face of patience.  
 Inside the river there is an unfinishable story  
 and you are somewhere in it  
 and it will never end until all ends.

Take your busy heart to the art museum and the  
 chamber of commerce  
 but take it also to the forest.  
 The song you heard singing in the leaf when you  
 were a child  
 is singing still.  
 I am of years lived, so far, seventy-four,  
 and the leaf is singing still.

~ “What Can I Say” from *Swan* by Mary Oliver ~

**A Wish for the Week Ahead**

May you find something to smile at,  
 something to be grateful for,  
 and something to care about.  
 May you remember that hard times  
 are not hard forever, no matter how  
 it feels while you're in one. May you  
 trust yourself, even if others may doubt  
 you, and may you honor each baby step  
 you take forward. May your coffee be  
 plentiful, your hope persistent, and  
 your kindness abundant.



Nancy Hoffman

A child came home from Sunday School and told his mother that he had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly. It took his mother a while before she realized that the hymn was really:

**"Gladly The Cross I'd Bear"**



**ANNIVERSARIES**

**May 21<sup>st</sup>—Keith and Beryl  
 Richardson**

**May 2024**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- May 2<sup>nd</sup>—Karen Greening**
- May 2<sup>nd</sup>—Melissa Kargus**
- May 15<sup>th</sup>—Andy Kalnins**
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>—Paula Mainprize**
- May 25<sup>th</sup>—Keith Richardson**
- May 26<sup>th</sup>—Clara Zimmerling**
- May 28<sup>th</sup>—Marion Bretzlaff**





**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

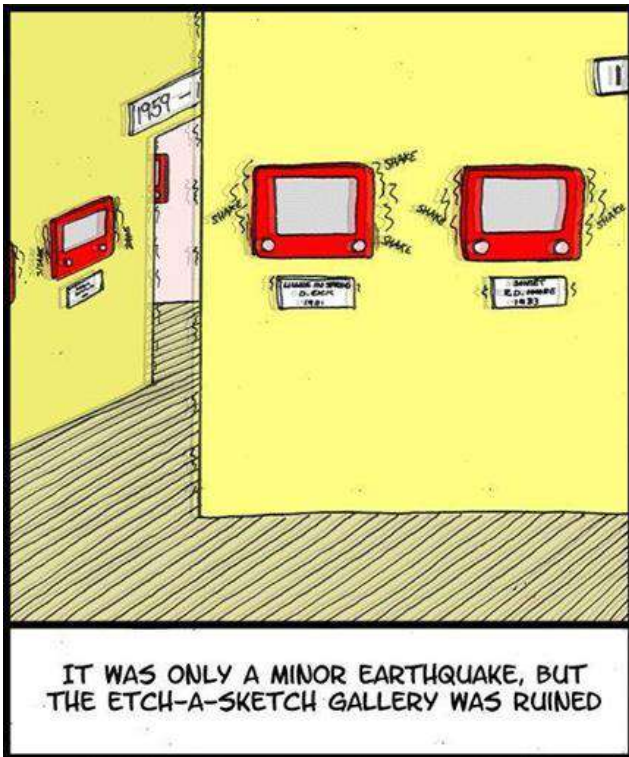
If you plan to attend, register before June 8<sup>th</sup> to get your lunch tickets either with this link <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/camp-lutherlyn-open-house-lunch-tickets-874712026217?a%1F=oddtcreator>

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



## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE May 2024

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUNTERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Boese	Jo Anne, Lorne	Andy & Cory/alt	Andy & Cory/alt	Social Debbie K	Randy
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Cathy Zimmerling	Jo Anne, Lorne	Andy & Cory/alt	Andy & Cory/alt		Lorne
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Kalnins	Jo Anne, Lorne	Andy & Cory/alt	Andy & Cory/alt		Lorne
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Jessica Z. Fam	Jo Anne, Lorne	Andy & Cory/alt	Andy & Cory/alt	Marion's Birthday	Randy



Gotta admire the creativity!