



# The Mustard Seed

Nov-Dec 2023

*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](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*

## Pastor's Message

To my faith families,

As a number of you have realized, my health has not been what it should be.

In fact, a number of issues have flared up leading my Physician to place me on medical leave, through till the new year. During this time, I am completely off work. Your Church Council has arranged for coverage during this absence.

Please keep me in your prayers, and thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine

## Message from the Chair

### Message from the Chair of Council

Rosalynn Carter, the wife of US President Jimmy Carter passed away on November 19th, at the age of 96. Rosalynn was many things: First Lady, Wife, Mother, Grandmother. She had a powerful intellect, and was a fierce advocate for many causes, especially mental health.

She had many great quotes but here is one of the best: ***"There is nothing more important than a good, safe, secure home."*** I think that we can apply this to our little home of St. John's Lutheran.

A lot of us despair when we read the front page of a newspaper. There is no need here to recap the horrors that inflict the world. Perhaps the strongest memory of the summer past was not the sweet scent of morning mists, but of foul smoke from forest fires.

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**Message** from the Chair of Council, *continued*

The church needs more money. The church needs more people in the pews. The church needs things fixed. The church needs more music. The church needs more volunteers. The church needs more respect. The church needs, the church needs, the church needs. Which church am I talking about? Which church am I not talking about?

But, we are open for worship every Sunday. We welcome people with greeters and we have real bells. The steps will be cleared of snow when it snows. No matter how cold it is outside, it will be warm inside.

Our music is better than the 12 apostles could have done. (Jesus Christ Super Star is a musical, not scripture!) Pastor Norine is getting the rest she needs. We are blessed to have Pastor Stan to be serving us. We have able and enthusiastic lay leaders. What other church has Bowl Suppers, Wednesday Evening Dancers, and the anticipation of a Christmas Pageant by the younger members of the congregation?

As Christmas 2023 approaches, we are indeed in a home that is good, safe, and secure. In the madness, wildness, and uncertainty of so much of the world, we have a small slice of serenity here in our little church. This blessing, this good fortune, this privilege comes from a power and place beyond our understanding. But no matter what our belief, no matter what our strength of faith, no matter what our individual trials, let us agree on one thing - that we can wish those close to us, and those distant, a Very Merry Christmas!

*Sincerely, Andy Kalnins*

## PRAYER LIST

**Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:**

**From our Congregation:** Ed, Jacqueline, Paul, Rachel, Jeff, June, Vicki, Samantha, Pastor Norine, **and friends:** Tere, children Briar and Alivia, George, Lynne, Claude, Amy, Roy, Bob, and Irene.

## **December 2023 Calendar**

DATE	EVENT
Friday	1:00-2:00p.m.—Muslim Community—each Friday in the Lounge
Wednesday	6:00-7:00p.m.—Movimento Dharma—each Wednesday in the Hall
Sunday Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word—Lay led</b>
Sunday Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion—Pastor Stan</b>
Sunday Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service of the Word—Lay led</b> Guest Musician: Craig Burkett</li> <li>• 10:30 — <b>Sunday School</b></li> <li>• Coffee hour follows in the Hall</li> </ul>
Monday Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m. Church Council Meets
Sunday Dec 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6:45 p.m. — Children's Pageant</b></li> <li>• <b>7:00 p.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion—Pastor Stan</b></li> </ul>
Sunday Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>10:30a.m. — Readings &amp; Carols—Lay led</b>
Sunday Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10:30 a.m. — Worship Service with Holy Communion—Pastor Stan</b>



### **Bishop's Visit to St. John's**

The Bishop now plans on visiting St. John's on **January 21st, 2024**. Please plan on attending so that we can give him a warm welcome.

Bishop Michael has announced his decision to not seek another term. The Synod Assembly on June 20-22, 2024 in Mississauga will elect a new Bishop as well as new Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.



## Minutes of the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council Meeting

Enid Blackwell

Pr. Norine (regrets)

David Burkett

**Attendance:**

Debbie Witt

Fred Steinke (regrets)

Andy Kalnins

Mellissa Watt

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

1. Andy opened with a prayer.
2. **Previous Minutes:** On Nov. 3 Council had an e-vote that St. John's Lutheran will continue to pay Pastor Norine Gullons salary and benefits until January 8th, 2024, while she is on sick leave, with the understanding that Synod has agreed to reimburse SJL for the costs associated with bringing in outside clergy. This was seconded by Enid, **CARRIED.** Debbie moved that the Draft minutes of October 16 be approved as distributed. Enid seconded. **CARRIED.**
3. **Finance:** Operating budget deficit to the end of October is -\$3,859. The "real" October operating budget deficit could be close to \$1,500 because St. James Oct. contribution wasn't included. The rentals helped offset our income to expense deficit. Expenses run under budget, now by \$3,598. 3rd quarter investment results expected soon, likely down. Expenses still run under budget by some \$2,377. Year end income speculated \$81,000 with total expenses around \$87,000. The appeal letter has gone out to our members to help cover an estimated \$6,000 deficit or somewhat less in order to balance out income and expenses at year end. Enid motioned that the financial report be accepted. Mellissa, Seconded. **CARRIED.**
4. **Property:** The bottom of 6 storm windows were purchased and installed. Furnace maintenance scheduled for Nov. 28. Electrical sub-panel replacement rescheduled for Dec. Cleaning contract to be reviewed. Fred has stored the lawn tractor and mower as well as winter servicing. Under consideration for 2024 budget is 3 new storm windows for basement (north side) and bathroom accessibility renovation.
5. **Pastor's report:** NO REPORT
6. **Long Range Planning:** Dave reported that 2 meetings are scheduled for this week to speak to the group. Dave asked Enid to speak regarding the volunteer base in the church. Randy is to speak about property. Mellissa to speak on youth to see what would make it interesting for kids to attend church. Dave is hoping to have more clarity by January with a report.
7. **Outreach:** Jeff Kargus presented that we focus on "helping others". The Food Bank is doing well so focus on food security like "Teachers Against Poverty" which funds breakfasts for children at school. He may have someone come and talk about this so there is an understanding of this need and how it works. He suggested that we might have a food basket with a list of items to be collected. It would have no time limit on how long it takes to fill it up. This is a good visual for folks to continually add to.
8. **Technology:** Dave said large computer is to be donated by Craig. Dave to come up depreciated value, then Craig can donate and get a receipt.
9. **Communication and Rental:** Facebook has been absent but some. A fellowship for Dec. 17 is being planned. Newsletter for this weekend. Rentals continue; increase in rent for next year under consideration.
10. **Health and Safety:** NO REPORT
11. **Youth and Abuse Prevention Policy:** Sunday School this month was attended by 5. Dec. 17 is the next Sunday School. Pageant to be decided as to when, either the Sunday before or Christmas Eve.
12. **Operations:** NO REPORT

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*Minutes from Nov 27th Council meeting, continued*

**13. New Business:**

**Arnprior Community Choir** - Maureen Rueckwald presented on behalf of the Arnprior Community Choir to see if we would consider the storage of their music library at St. John's. Their current location is to be renovated and they have to move. The library consists of 6 file cabinets. They carry their own insurance. They would consider paying a modest rent or a donation for storage. Council discussed further and it was decided that if there is cleanup of some areas it could possibly make room for the cabinets in the boardroom but they would have to have locks on them. There will be further discussion with Maureen as well as what time line there is.

**Sunday Service Schedule** - On Sunday, Nov. 12, Andy, Debbie from SJL and John Stiefelmeyer and Marilyn Kropp from St. James met with Pastor Stan to go over Pastoral coverage during Pastor Norine's absence. Pastor Stan said he was willing to do both services each Sunday with communion at no cost except for mileage. It was then determined that this was a very busy schedule as well as unpredictable weather and the inability for Pastor to attend social at St. James, thus another meeting was held on November 22 at which time the consensus was that the best plan would be for Pastor Stan to alternate the leading of services at each church. A schedule was then developed:

Nov. 26	St. John's - Pastor St. James - Lay	Dec 17	St. John's - Lay St. James - Pastor	Jan. 7	St. John's - Pastor St. James - Lay
Dec. 3	St. John's - Lay St. James - Pastor	Dec. 24	St. John's - Pastor St. James - Pastor		
Dec. 10	St. John's - Pastor St. James - Lay	Dec. 31	St. John's - Lay - Readings & Carols St. James - Pastor		

**14. Close of Meeting:** Andy closed with a prayer.

Next meeting: December 18 at 1:00.

What happens when a cat shows up in heaven





We will be running 5 days of Sunday School for the winter and spring term (January through June) using the same timeframe and curriculum source as we did in the fall. Classes will start at 10:30. Ushers: please call the children up a few minutes before it's time for the Children's Message.

Dates will be selected – roughly once a month - based on availability of the most children who can attend. When you get an email asking for your child(ren)'s availability, please respond as soon as you can.

SS Planning Team: Alison, Ryan, Jessica & Melissa



### ***Anniversaries***

***Dec 7<sup>th</sup>—Judith & Stan Johnstone***

***Dec 30<sup>th</sup>—Alison & Dave Burkett***

### ***November -***

### ***December 2023***

### ***BIRTHDAYS***

***Nov 6<sup>th</sup>—Mel Bretzlaff***

***Nov 12<sup>th</sup>—Bartley Roberts***

***Nov 18<sup>th</sup>—Nathan Brohart***

***Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>—Bob Witt***

***Dec 4<sup>th</sup>—Kathy Tonkin***

***Dec 11<sup>th</sup>—Gerald Formuziewich***

***Dec 25<sup>th</sup>—Jacob Elliot***

Photo  
Corner



McTeer twins' baptism on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>

Special thanks once again to Keith and Beryl for their time and efforts. Once again the church was well staged with harvest foods and flowers



Movimento Dharma dance group in action



### Today, Let the Light of Your Faith Shine Brightly, Illuminating the Path Ahead

Remember, faith is not just a word; it is a force that moves mountains and transcends the limits of our understanding. It is the anchor in the storms of life, the unwavering trust in a higher purpose that guides us through the darkest nights.

In moments of doubt, let your faith be your refuge. Trust that every challenge is an opportunity for growth, and every setback is a setup for a greater comeback. Embrace the journey, for it is in the twists and turns that we discover the strength within.

Have faith in the beauty of new beginnings, in the promise of a brighter tomorrow. Even when the path seems unclear, trust that each step forward is guided by a purpose beyond our comprehension.

May your faith be a beacon of light, inspiring others to embark on their own journey of discovery. Let your actions be a testament to the power of unwavering belief and the transformative nature of divine love.

May your faith be the compass that guides you, the strength that sustains you, and the joy that uplifts you. Embrace the blessings that surround you, and trust that a higher plan is unfolding, orchestrating a masterpiece beyond our comprehension.





### WOMAN'S PERFECT BREAKFAST

She's sitting at the table with her gourmet coffee.  
Her son is on the cover of the Wheaties box.  
Her daughter is on the cover of Business Week.  
Her boyfriend is on the cover of Playgirl.  
And her husband is on the back of the milk carton.



The teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. The father offered his son the following deal.

"You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

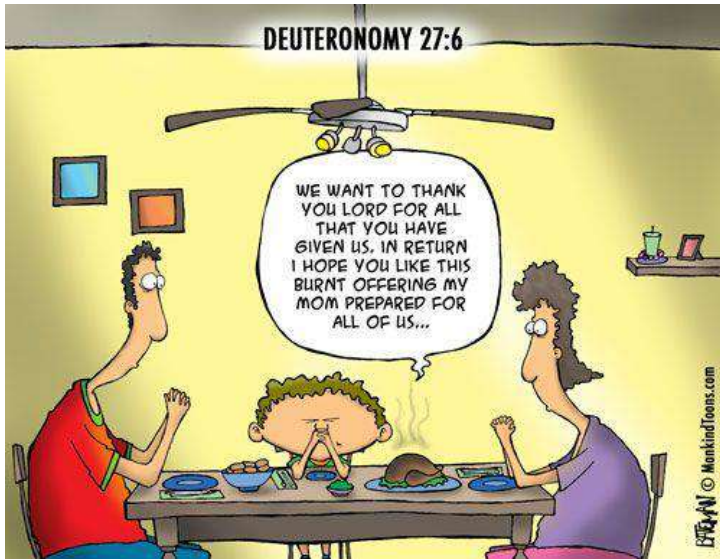
The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

Got to love the Dad's reply:

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"





## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE November 2023

DATE	READER	ALTAR	GREETERS	COUN-TERS	SOCIAL	BLDG & GROUNDS
<b>Dec 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Andy Kalnins	Beryl & Keith	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob		Jeff
<b>Dec 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Vicki Weichenthal	Beryl & Keith	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob		Jeff
<b>Dec 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Karen Greening	Beryl & Keith	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	TBC	Jeff
<b>Dec 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Mark Boese	Beryl & Keith	Debbie & Bob	Elmer & Marion		Jeff
<b>Dec 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Kathy Tonkin	Beryl & Keith	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob		Jeff

### Emergency food



**Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief**

Give life-saving food to a family in an emergency.

When disaster, drought or famine strikes, your gift will allow our local partners to immediately get life-saving food to families facing severe malnutrition. Your gift will be matched **FOUR TIMES!** Food for one family: \$20



### 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