



The Mustard Seed October 2020

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

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

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Church Council

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"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 month of October brings festivals to Canadians. Thanksgiving, Halloween, Jewish celebrations, and designated Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Indigenous days. For Lutherans worldwide, the remembrance of the Reformation at the end of the month is also a highlight. All of these events have a spiritual basis. People celebrate with gratitude at harvest festivals. We take time to remember our past. We create light where there is darkness and we honor the dead.

This fall provokes all of us to rethink how we are going to remember or celebrate all of these occasions. The Covid-19 virus is a serious world wide health issue. It has taken us time to sort out our own personal boundaries around this issue and it has taken our Ottawa Valley Lutheran churches time to do the same thing. I believe that stepping into October we are more knowledgeable and better prepared to safely gather adhering to Covid Public Health protocols. St. John's Church Council is ready now to provide an opportunity for in door worship starting Oct 18th. That being said, as provincial conditions change every day - **We will not proceed with this plan if Ontario returns to a "Red vs. Amber status" or if the recommendation from our Health Unit is not to proceed.** We can always reassess our situation and decision on a weekly basis or as circumstances dictate.

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Pastor's message, continued

The decision to personally attend worship, is in the hands of each member, as per their individual circumstances. Church Council understands that each individual has their own comfort level in all of this. We all have internal discussions with ourselves every day. Do I need to go to the bank, or grocery store or restaurant to-day? Do I need to purchase that item in Ottawa or can I find it here or in Renfrew? You are not alone. Only you can answer these questions for yourself.

We hope that you feel safe and comfortable enough to gather together, but we will understand if you do not feel that way. Time for worship provides a sacred space for people, one where we hope they feel supported and encouraged, and find comfort and solace in God's care. I commend the call to worship from Sept 27th to you all.

Call to Worship

Trust in the Lord at all times.

Pour out your hearts before God.

God is our refuge and strength, and very present help in times of trouble.

Let us worship.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine

PRAYER LIST

We normally have this list on our Sunday bulletin. Please pray for these people in your daily prayer:



From both congregations: Ed & Rosemary, Lucas and family, Joe & Shelley, Annie, Joan.

Friends of the Parish: Leslie, Ron K., Tere B., Lorraine, Chris & Kathy T., Barb L., Joyce S., Rev. Julio Romero, (ELCIC Pastor in Niagara Falls), Jodie, Susan.

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

October Worship Schedule

DATE	EVENT
Oct 4 th	YouTube Service of Word and Prayer
Oct 8 th	Area Lutheran Pastors meet 9:30—noon in church hall.
Oct 11 th	THANKSGIVING Sunday YouTube worship service with Holy Communion
Oct 18 th	10:30a.m. First in person worship service of Word and Prayer
Oct 19 th	7pm Church Council meets
Oct 25 th	<p>REFORMATION Sunday <u>10:00a.m.</u> Worship service of Holy Communion.</p> <p>Guest Preacher: Captain, the Rev. Michael Hackbush, ELCIC – CF Chaplain posted at CFB Petawawa. Guest attendees: 10 members of St. James Lutheran Church</p>

Preparation for Resumption of In-person Worship

The following activities have taken place over the past month or so to move us toward being able to resume In-person Worship:

1. Formed a task force to look at implications and made recommendations on how to proceed to church council.
2. Completed synod check list for resumption of in-person worship.
3. Prepared overall Covid 19 Safety Plan.
4. Completed Cleaning SSOP(Standard Sanitization Operating procedures).
5. Defined and documented role for lead usher and counters.
6. Defined and documented role for lead greeter/Covid questionnaire administrator.
7. Posted Covid 10 signage throughout facility.
8. Installed distance floor markings on basement floor.
9. Removed 2 storm windows on main level for cross ventilation(primarily when church cleaning is occurring and to allow fresh air into the building as required.
10. Will be training volunteers as necessary.
11. Contacted area churches to discuss and review their approach to resumption of in person worship: Emmanuel Anglican, Faith Lutheran Ottawa and St. Timothy's Pembroke.
12. Reviewed our approach and status of preparations with Renfrew County Health unit. Will provide them with a copy of our plans.
13. Prepared a welcome back brochure that will be distributed to our congregation prior to opening. Will communicate new church protocols during Covid 19.
14. Communicated technology upgrade plan to congregation. Once vote to proceed is finalized we will purchase equipment and proceed with installation. Continuing to work to improve worship experience for those not on internet.
15. Communicate date for planned resumption of worship.



WELCOME HOME!

GETTING READY TO OPEN OUR CHURCH IN AMBER STAGE

These months that we, the church community, have been unable to meet face to face have been difficult. We're all looking forward to coming back. But we are returning to a new reality. Please take time to review this brochure to help make our return as safe as possible.

Here's what to expect—

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE To help ensure the health and safety of all who come to worship, the church building will be cleaned and sanitized before each service.

Before you attend a service, please screen yourself for COVID-19 symptoms. If you feel unwell or are in a high-risk group, please stay home. The size of our gathering is limited to no more than 50 people, based on our seating capacity and government guidelines.

All the worship books have been removed from the church. The order of service will no longer be printed and handed out in bulletin format. We will be following along within our Lutheran Book of Worship. You are asked to bring a copy with you and take it home each Sunday.

All who come to church will be required to wear a mask. If you have your own mask, please bring it with you and put it on before you enter the building. If you don't have a mask, or forget it, disposable masks will be available at the entrance to the church.

UPON ARRIVAL Hand sanitizer dispensers will be at the entrance and exit of the church. You'll be asked to sanitize your hands on entering and exiting the church.

If you haven't already confirmed your attendance for the service, upon arrival you'll be asked to provide your name, telephone number and email address.

Welcome Home, continued

We are required to collect this information to help with contact tracing in case someone who's been here is later found to have COVID-19.

You will also be asked if you have any COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to anyone who is ill in the last 14 days. If you have, you cannot be admitted to the service.

Please arrive early and wait to be escorted to your seat.

DURING THE SERVICE Physical distancing will be maintained at all times. There must be no touching, outside of your household bubble, at any point before, during or after the service. Children must remain with their parents/caregivers throughout. An offering plate will be available as you enter the church but it will not be passed during the service. The congregation is not permitted to sing. Only the pastor will administer the Eucharist. She will sanitize her hands both before and after the distribution of communion, which will be by wafers only for the congregation.

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE Areas of the church not necessary for worship will be closed. Washrooms should only be used when urgently needed because they must be cleaned after each use. We prefer that you use only the 2 washrooms nearest the front entrance stairs.

To keep everyone safe and healthy, you are asked not to gather in the building or outside before or after the service and to maintain physical distancing at all times.

Please don't feel obliged to return to in-person worship if you don't feel ready to do so, if you are in a high-risk group (because of age, underlying health conditions or caregiving someone at high risk). Online services will continue to be offered for the time being.

***For more information, please contact either Pastor: 613 282-5032, or
Randy: 613 623-9733***

Council Meeting Minutes

Sept 21st 2020: **Attendance:** Cory Weckwerth, David Burkett, Pr. Norine, Randy Zimmerling and **Guest:** Lorne R.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 and Pastor opened with devotions and a prayer.

1. Re-opening Task Force – Lorne Rueckwald

Lorne outlined the task list status. Still waiting on answers to outstanding questions – hopefully Synod establishes a mechanism to submit questions and get answers. Randy has created a list of all the tasks with names and dates assigned for each. Lorne to review. Discussion around feasible opening date. Conclusion: aim for October 25th (Reformation Sunday). (subsequently revised to be Oct 18th).

2. Pastor's report:

Pastor presented her report. Discussion around how Pastor's distribution of time has changed.

3. Finance:

Randy presented the P&L, Balance Sheet and comparison to budget. We continue to be in good shape, while still in a small deficit position, it is less than last year.

4. Previous Minutes

Cory moved, Enid seconded. Carried.

5. Communications

Enid reported on:

- Continued Facebook postings (approx. 40 since mid August, including 'kid friendly' posts, bit of humour, just recovery, livable income, international day of peace postings, black Thursdays, plus all service videos, scripts and many ELCIC prayers/hymns);
- Phone calls/emails with 6 households/individuals occasionally,
- Various other notices and communications.
- Dave reported on YouTube postings (averaging 45 views per service) and proposal for next step for AV – communicate to congregation regarding out-of-budget expenditure approval.

6. Outreach:

Snak-Pak program grant application will be submitted. Debbie & Jeff participated in video taping for the International day of peace at WABA.

7. Property Update:

- Randy reported on a number of building maintenance issues: water leak (requires caulking), chairlift maintenance, cleaning, Organ tune-up, new high speed internet installed, storms and signage for COVID.
- Grant application will be submitted for technology upgrade.

8. New Business:

- Cluster wishes to meet Oct 8th at St. John's. Council agreed.
- Cleaning out the Sacristy – Pastor to review what's to be kept and where.
- Reserved parking signs: Dave to Build.
- Pastor notifying people regarding volunteer duties and training in conjunction with church resumption of in person worship .
- AV equipment requires \$2000 – Dave to make announcement regarding project.
- Hospice Renfrew notice: Virtual Hike for Hospice.
- Moved by Enid: Council approve applying for YAYA grant for a youth outreach outdoor ministry program: Seconded by Cory, Carried.

Adjournment: 9:50

Astronomy Corner—Andy Kalnins

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”

So the sun stood still,
and the moon stopped,
till the nation avenged itself on its enemies,
as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!”

Joshua had things to do, and a direct line to God, so he was able to get some heavy duty divine intervention to help him smite. But there are a lot of people that need things done at this time of year and no one is busier than our farmers; winter is coming, there are crops to harvest and the hours of daylight are waning.

So while there is no Joshua in our midst the farmers have been gifted with the Harvest Moon on October 1st. What makes this full moon remarkable is the time of moonrise. Ordinarily a full moon rises almost a full hour after the sun sets but at this time of year the time delay is only 20 minutes or less. That gives our farmers a lot more natural light to do what they have to do. And this month there is a second full moon on Halloween night. This month is often called the Hunter’s Moon and this moon as well rises as the sun sets. (a second full moon is called a Blue Moon but there is nothing blue about it, no matter what the song says)



On October 14th the moon is old and will be a slender view in the morning sky but it will have a sky-mate; the bright planet Venus. Look in the east before the sun rises for this pretty view.

But the real star of this month is not a star at all but a planet; Mars! Mars is well up in the eastern sky by 9:00 pm and looks like a yellow orange orb staring at us from afar. Mars will not be this close nor this bright until 2035 so it is worth checking out. At 36.8 million miles it is hardly around the corner but in celestial terms it is right next to us! Certainly a small telescope (or a big telescope) make Mars more interesting but sometimes it is fine to just look up and drink in the beauty and think about what Mars inspires within in you.

Most folks know Halley’s Comet. It caused a lot of excitement in England in 1066 and has always been a regular visitor. The next time it comes calling close to earth is in 2061 and not all of us will be around then. But Halley is a messy comet and leaves all kinds of junk and debris behind. Every year, right about now the earth intersects that debris field and we see the Orionid Meteor Shower. It not the biggest nor the brightest but check it out all of October, but especially in and around October 20th

OUTDOOR SERVICE—September 15th

Our first in-person worship was held on September 15th, outdoors on the lawn. It was also a chance to celebrate **Elmer Leek's 85th birthday**.





Obituary of Leonard Boese

It is with sadness the family announces that our beloved Leonard Charles Boese passed away at the Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital with his loving wife Barbara by his side in the early morning hours of Sunday September 27, 2020 after a short journey through cancer. He was 74. Beloved husband and best friend of Barbara Boese (Stewart). Much loved father of Sherri Johnson (Jean-Luc Martin) of B.C., Lisa Boese of Ottawa and Steven Boese (Michelle) of Quebec. Dear brother of David Boese (Linda) of Kingston, Betty Whitteker (Doug) of Williamsburg and Mark Boese (Diane) of Arnprior. Dear son of Estella Boese (late Melvin) (2002). Predeceased by first wife Alice Daniell (2008). Cherished grandfather to Stephen Boese. Loving step-father to Alexander and James Watson and Poppy to Mallory-Jane Watson. Predeceased by daughter Laura (2006) and brother Donald (1973). Missed by many aunts and uncles and several nieces and nephews. Leonard had a great passion for motorcycles and enjoyed riding his motorcycle on the open road. Later in life he developed a passionate interest in cooking. At the age of 58 he enrolled in a cooking class at Algonquin College and later proclaimed to be a retired chef-much to the delight of his family and friends. To Leonard, flavour was always a key ingredient when cooking. Leonard's final care has been entrusted to the Boyce Funeral Home, 138 Daniel Street North, Arnprior. Private Interment to take place at Arnprior Albert Street Cemetery. In memorial donations may be made to the University of Ottawa Heart Institute or to the Canadian Cancer Society.



NEW VIRTUAL HIKE FOR HOSPICE, 2020

In past years, we have been faithful supporters of Hospice Renfrew by providing donations and/or being part of a St. John's team participating in the Hike for Hospice, their major annual fundraiser held in May.

Due to COVID 19, the planned May event was postponed this year. Since a large event is still not possible, Hospice Renfrew is launching a **Virtual Hike for Hospice** on Saturday, October 10.

if desired, you can easily participate in this fundraiser in one of three ways:

- **walking** with your bubble on or around October 10 in a safe area and way, and **collecting and sending** your Thanksgiving 'Virtual Hike for Hospice' donation onwards, as detailed below;
- **adding a line and amount to your regular church offering** identified for: Hospice. This donation will be included in your annual charitable donation receipt from the church;
- **donating directly** to Renfrew Hospice. Your receipt will come from the Hospice.

Direct donations: Call 613 433-3993 ext. 2234 or mail to:

**Hospice Renfrew
459 Albert Street
Renfrew, ON K7V 1V8**

Ruth Stiefelmeyer (Hospice volunteer & member of St. James) is again committed to walking to help raise needed funds for this most worthy cause. If you can and are willing to make a pledge and support the Hospice, please contact Ruth @ **432-8677** or by email: meyerstie70@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

We don't know what we'll be able to do for a Christmas Bazaar this year. It certainly will be different – we may be able to have:

- some sort of controlled entry to the church for people to come in and look at what's available (but only if the church has been open for a while)
- some type of telephone/ online order and pick-up event – that could work very well for baking and preserves

I've agreed to be the lead for the COVID Bazaar and I'll convene volunteers in a couple of weeks once we know more about the second wave, to discuss our plans for this year.

Meanwhile, please put aside your preserves for the church as you're doing your harvest work and if you can, don't give away items that would be good

for a Bazaar this fall or a future date. And hold the date of November 14th (the Saturday after Remembrance Day).





Thank you for your support to the **technology upgrade project**. We are humbled and grateful for the immediate and generous response we have received for this project. We will do our best to continue to improve the options of worship service delivery for all our members. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Pastor Norine and Church
Council

October 2020



Birthdays

Oct 10th—Cathy Zimmerling

Oct 12th—Nate Zimmerling

Oct 21st—Jeff Kargus

Oct 25th—Rosemary Drziak

Oct 26th—Kayla Zimmerling

Oct 27th—Fred Steinke

Oct 30th—Estella Boese

Oct 31st—Joyce Headrick

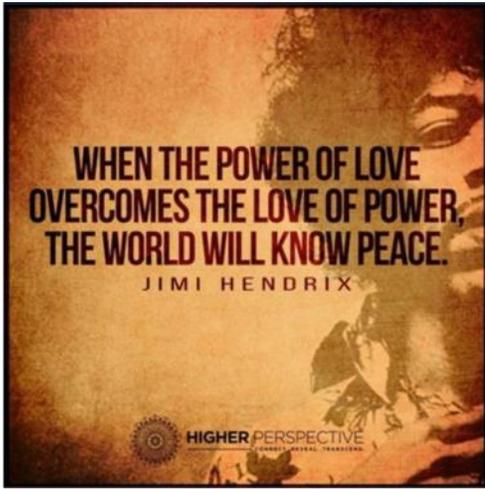
Anniversaries

Oct 10th—Bartly & Linda Roberts

Oct 11th—Greg & Debbie Steinke

*Oct 23rd— Bob Hinchley & Enid
Blackwell*





Peace, the Street, and All the People

by

Alison and Michael Flensburg



“How can I create peace?” asks the child.
 “By sharing toys with your sister” says her mother.
 And the child does.



“How can I make peace?” asks the mother.
 “By making sure your children see you helping others,” says the teacher.
 And the mother does.



“How can I create peace?” asks the teacher.
 “By donating food to the community food bank,” says the food bank worker.
 And the teacher does.

“How can I create peace?” asks the food bank worker.
 “By making friends with someone who is different from you,” says the street.
 And the food bank worker does.



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Peace poem, continued

“How can I create peace?” asks the street.
“By carrying thousands of feet, all marching to
end hate and to spread peace,” says the city.
And the street does.



“How can I create peace?” asks the city.
“By providing homes for your homeless,” says the
country.
And the city does.



“How can I create peace?” asks the country.
“By using helpful works, not guns to solve your quarrels,”
says the world.
And the country does.



“How can I create peace?” asks the world.
“With love,” says the child, “with love”.

