



The Mustard Seed

September 2022

Newsletter

of

*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

47 McLachlin St. S., Arnprior

Ontario K7S 2Z1

Enid Blackwell (Chair)	623-7017
Debbie Witt (Sec'y)	622-1500
Andy Kalnins (Vice)	863-0202
Dave Burkett	618-5729
Rachel Roesner	804-3392
Fred Steinke	298-5017
Pastor Norine	623-4562
Alison Burkett (Treasurer)	618-5716

Church Council

See us on facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior

On the web: 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

"Hope is hearing the melody of the future.
Faith is to dance to it." Rubem Alves.
(Brazilian theologian)

Hope is that feeling we get when we see that change is possible, and that it is worth the effort to give it a try. We all are called to be a part of the solution to re-form our church- revitalize it. We are all needed to assist it to keep sailing ahead, even though we may have to use the tacking method from time to time. Our ministry together is a combination of Pastor and people. That is where hope comes in. And hope is a powerful thing!

We can make some careful small changes that we hope will have an impact on our community and spirituality.

We need to communicate to God about our concerns. So we have initiated a **prayer group** to help undergird us as we sail ahead into the future.

We have created a **Pastoral Care Team** of 4 people who will call or visit members who we need to connect with on a monthly basis. I believe that Hope comes through a people to people connection. It is powerful in the here and now as it hallows our daily labor, ordinary relationships, and our everyday struggles.

"The time being," W. H. Auden once wrote, is often "the hardest time of all." So that is where God shows up, and still shows up when we gather to hear his word and leave to share it in word and deed. We have a new Liturgical season starting in September called **The Season of Creation**. Several services in September will be planned to engage younger families. These services won't be Communion services - since we're inviting UNPLUG kids to attend and we want them to feel comfortable the first time in our church.

Continued over—>

Pastor's Message Continued,

Once hope is loose it can be infectious! Maybe then we are not just watching things unfold, but we are part of it, helping to make change happen. Sometimes that is how the harder questions start to get some answers.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine

Let us pray: **May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hands of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us this day and forever.** Amen.

Thank you, Survey Respondents!

Twenty-nine responses to the recent Visioning Input Survey were received on paper and online. Thank you for taking the time to provide your feelings and thoughts on concerns, preferences, ideas and hopes in areas of worship, outreach, youth, technology, future direction and more. Please read the 'Special Council Meeting' (draft) minutes of our August 22 meeting in this issue for some detail on survey results.



Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

XMAS BAZAAR

Saturday November 12th

9:00am to Noon

Please put aside items for St. John's Christmas Bazaar and ask family and friends to do the same. We're looking for the following new or gently used items:

- * Preserves (and baking later)
- * Furniture
- * Household items and decor
- * Jewellery
- * Kids toys and items (e.g. sleds, bikes, helmets, booster seats, cradle)

Thanks.

September 2022 Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Sunday Sept 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m. Worship Service with Hold Communion: Season of Creation Theme: “Ocean”
Thursday Sept 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Lutheran Pastors meet at St. Stephens in Schutt, 10-1pm
Saturday Sept 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00a.m. Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s Restaurant.
Sunday Sept 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m. Youthful Worship Service of Word & Prayer: Season of Creation theme “Fauna & Flora” • Coffee hour after worship • Unplug Event: “Trip to Morris Island Conservation Area”
Sunday Sept 18 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Youthful Worship Service of Word & Prayer: Season of Creation theme: “Storm”
Saturday Sept 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00-4:00p.m. St. John’s Visioning Retreat day —Galilee Retreat Centre—(see information elsewhere in Newsletter)
Sunday Sept 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m. Youthful Worship Service of Word & Prayer: Season of Creation theme: “Cosmos” • Coffee hour after worship • UNPLUG event: “Build, Decorate & Fly Kites”
Monday Sept 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00p.m. Church Council meets
Sunday Oct 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30a.m.—Worship Service of Word and Prayer Season of Creation theme: “Blessing of the Animals” • UNPLUG event: “Farm and Forest Adventures”

Minutes of the August 22nd, 2022 Council Meeting

Attendance:	Enid Blackwell	Pr. Norine	David Burkett
	Debbie Witt	Alison Burkett	Andy Kalnins
	Fred Steinke	Rachel Roesner	

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Pastor opened with a devotion and prayer.
2. **Visioning Survey results, Initial Feedback:** 29 people completed the survey, considered a good response number. Some 83% of respondents are concerned about how the church will survive; it was noted that other churches are facing the same question and the pandemic did not help. There was about 50/50 regarding liturgy to keep as is or to modernize carefully. Outreach and Technology are considered as doing a good job in reaching out on causes and in connecting our church community through varied venues. 79% are willing to consider change if done in a thoughtful, prayerful engaging fashion. It was noted that we need to engage youth and younger families as they are the future. There was reference to St. James Renfrew's experience in selling and renting. Were we to sell, it can take at least 2 years in planning and you have to have a place to go to. We can look at ways to develop the property.
3. **Ministry Plans:** Pastor Norine said with COVID reality in recent years, herself being sick with COVID then on holiday, she could not see as many families in pastoral care as she would have liked. A new Pastoral Care Team is being formed to help with visits and phone calls. Pastor will keep the ones she has been following for a long time since they know her. A Prayer Group is also being formed to pray for all our needs. There will also be a Worship Team starting in September to help in exploring and creating worship and music plans.
4. **RAY Proposal Review:** Alison and Dave Burkett went through this proposal concerning property concepts. It was noted that we need to get income that is not solely dependent on donations and need to reduce our costs to live within our means. The outlines of sell, merge or redevelop were briefly discussed. It was decided that the Visioning Retreat will bring back recommendations from their time in September and options will be looked at. Dave said the Property Committee felt they did not want to put a new floor in the basement if we were selling. This was budgeted for and approved at the AGM and will proceed, to be completed by Thanksgiving. Church council recommends that we stay as we are for the time being.

Continued over —>

Minutes from August 22nd Council Meeting, continued

5. **Visioning Process/Retreat:** This will be held on Saturday, September 24 at Galilee Centre. Council and some members from the congregation are invited to join the Visioning Team. Having as much representative input as we can will help the process. A report will come to Council who will present it to the congregation. From this it will be decided as to how to proceed. It is anticipated that an ongoing long range planning group will continue this work.
6. **Other:** Mission grant application due in Sept. 30; info packages about St. John's will be placed on a downtown Sunday Market 'welcome table' once in August and once in September.
7. **Closing:** Pastor closed with a prayer.
8. **Next meeting:** Monday, September 26 at 7:00.

PRAYER LIST

We normally have this list on our Sunday bulletin.

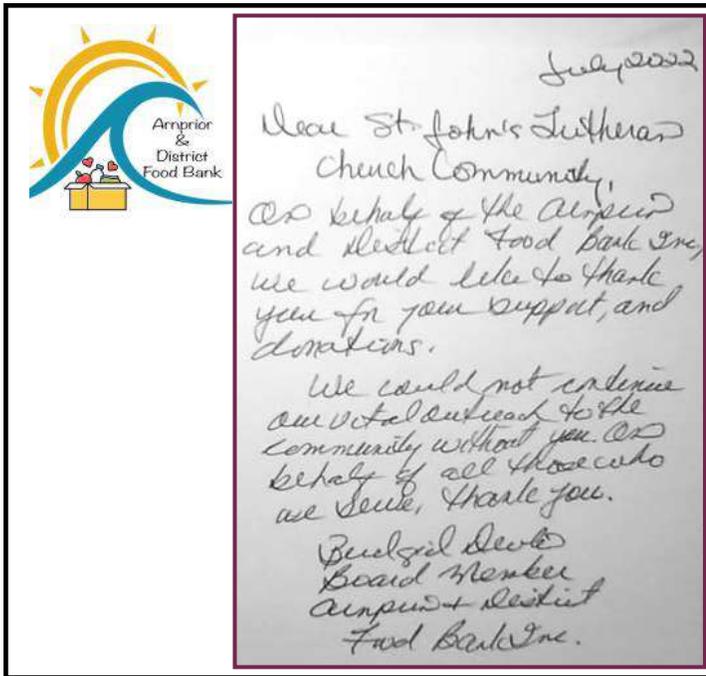
Please pray for these people in your daily prayers:

From our congregation: Jeff Obst, Ed & Rosemary, Linda & family, Vicki, Jacqueline, Kenny T., Stella.

Friends of the Parish: Tere, Kathleen, Lorraine, children -Briar & Alivia, Ed, George W., Lynne Z., Claude, Rev. Heather & Wayne Spencer-Stolz.

We also pray for all those returning to educational pursuits in September; students, teachers, people in administration and school bus drivers.

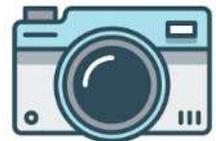
Bless you for believing in the power of prayers. If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.



This year's garden, nearly ready for harvest.



Photos



July 3 Red and White time together!



Thank you, Karen Prince, for music on August 21.



Flowers like these returned to beautify our worship in the summer.



“Season of Creation”

The Season of Creation offers worshipers an opportunity to turn their full attention toward God the creator and toward their relationship with the whole creation. Most commonly, the Season of Creation is celebrated between Creation Day on September 1 and St Francis of Assisi Day on October 4; an optional Sunday can be added after October 4. (By the way, did you know that St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment; it is customary for many churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day of October 4.)

For four Sundays in the church year, you can join in a whole-hearted experience of celebrating the mysteries and wonders of creation with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. In a special way, the Season of Creation follows the lead of the psalmists who exhort us to celebrate together with creation—with the forest, the rivers, and the fields who praise the Creator in their own way. We celebrate Earth, the garden planet God has chosen as God’s sanctuary and as our home. We celebrate with the creatures God has created as our kin on this blue green planet. As we celebrate, we are conscious of the crisis that creation faces because of human greed, exploitation, and neglect. As we celebrate, we empathize with those parts of creation—human and non-human—that are groaning because of human crimes against creation. And, especially, we celebrate the Christ, whose death brings forgiveness for our sins against creation and whose risen presence is the cosmic power at work in reconciling and restoring creation.

This year (Year C) the themes of the four Sundays are depicted in the images and we have chosen to also hold a ceremony for Blessing of the Animals on a fifth Sunday. All the Sundays will be a non-traditional liturgy for

the Season of Creation that was developed by two churches in Australia: the Lutheran Church and the Uniting Church. Hymns will be selected to support the specific creation theme. On three of the five Sundays we are inviting youth from our parish and from the UNPLUG program to participate; those will be a Service of the Word.



1—Sept 4th: Ocean Sunday



2—Sept 11th: FAUNA & FLORA Sunday (Youth)



3—Sept 1th: STORM Sunday (Youth)



4—Sept 25th: COSMOS Sunday



5—Sept Oct 2nd: Blessing of the Animals

Visioning Retreat Day & Invitation

Saturday, September 24



To support our communal visioning work this year, the Visioning Team (P+Norine, Cory Weckwerth, P+ Stan Johnstone, Dave Burkett, and Enid Blackwell) with council approval, applied for and were fortunate to receive a short-term mission grant of \$500 from the Eastern Synod. This grant funds a one-day Visioning Retreat on **Saturday, September 24**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to be held at Galilee Centre in

Arnprior, where space, equipment, lunch, and coffee will be provided in a peaceful setting.

Members of this team, the congregational council and several others from the broader congregation will participate in this retreat. Such cross-representation improves process. They will work with facilitator Lori Pilatzke, a Lutheran pastor in Orillia, experienced in long range visioning and planning within congregations, where such realities as numbers, age, views and finances need attention.

On this day, the group will consider our internal context, including input received through the recent Visioning Input Survey, and our broader church and societal context. We expect the outcome from the day's work to include both short-term (e.g. 2 year) and longer-term (e.g. 5 yr.) recommendations which will come to council and onwards to the congregation.



After this retreat, it is likely that a smaller, long-range planning team will continue to assist St. John's in making ongoing, sound decisions as 'a welcoming, compassionate fellowship of believers who serve God through joyful outreach and stewardship of the gifts of grace.'

What about you? Do you feel that you can add your voice on September 24, and, to some extent, represent a part of the congregational membership? If so, **please contact Enid by September 13.**



NOTICES

Pastoral CARE

We welcome the new **Pastoral Care Team** of Enid Blackwell, Beryl Richardson, Lois Rosien, & Debbie Witt.

These people will stay in touch with 10 people/families monthly to assist the congregation with its visiting ministry.

P+Norine will remain visiting critically ill families (5) and those in nursing homes.

Should you wish to join this team please contact P+Norine.



We are grateful for the new **Prayer Group** that will start to meet in September. Barbara Formuziewich, and Kathy Tonkin will meet with P+Norine to pray regularly for the needs of the congregation and its people.

Again, should you wish to join this team please contact P+Norine.



HUMOUR



COFFEE IN HAND, SUPPLIES AT THE READY,
ALICE SETTLES IN, WAITING FOR THE
FIRST TELEMARKETER TO GALL.



THE SUNFLOWER

We remember the people of the Ukraine as they are now into their 7th month of war with Russia.

Throughout Ukraine's history, the flower has been used as a symbol of peace.

FACT - The flower has an even longer history in the country. Sunflowers—*soniashnyk* in Ukrainian—have been grown in Ukraine since the mid-18th century, according to a 1993 *Encyclopaedia of Ukraine*. At the time of the book's publication, sunflower seeds were the country's most popular snack. The flower also helps fuel the national economy today; Ukraine and Russia supply up to 70–80% of the world's sunflower oil exports.



This photo was taken by Bonnie Brake, a friend of the congregation. From her garden.

Tessa Roberts

I am excited to announce alongside support from



Pastor Norine and Pastor Stan I was awarded a \$1,000 Eastern Synod Scholarship. This past spring I completed my Human Kinetics undergraduate degree from the University of Ottawa and graduated Summa Cum Laude. This scholarship recognized my academic standing, community

volunteering and involvement with the church. I am heading to Queens this fall for my Masters in Physical Therapy. I am extremely appreciative for the support in my academic journey!

I also attached a family photo from graduation.



The Roberts Family: Linda, Tessa and Bartly



UNPLUG Youth Program

Two UNPLUG events were held over the summer months:

July 10: “Join the Circle – Drum, Play and Learn”. Eleven children (3-8 years) and sixteen adults (parents, grandparents, aunt) came to this event at Waba Cottage Museum and Gardens, to drum, play and learn with EarlyON and Algonquin leaders Jessica (Pikwakanagan) and Nancy (Bonnechere Algonquin/Kichi Sibi Women Drummers).

The children and parents were very engaged learning some Algonquin greetings and expressions appreciating the Indigenous view that ‘everything is alive’. This extended to the symbolism and respect given to the drums which represent round



Mother Earth and are made from the life of animals and trees. The whole group was enthusiastic in learning and playing different songs with Nancy and Jessica – welcoming the sun, the river song (water rushes like our busy lives at times and then rests, like when we have family slow times), and a funny song about fried bread. (Each song was repeated 4 times to honour the north, south, east and west directions).

Kids took an active break to play a game “Hawk and Mice”. Phoenix (our UNPLUG support) was a very fine wing-flapping hawk who often surprised the unwary mice with sudden stops and hunting. In the end, the mice wore the big bird out! After that, many enjoyed some good White Lake well water, poured into their water bottles.

August 7 “Explore the Shore”: Four children took part in exploring the Indian River in the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area on this scorching hot August day with Ken & Ruth Allison, members of the Mississippi Valley



Field Naturalists. They all had nets and everyone found something in the river – cray-



fish were the first things caught, small minnows, lots of water spiders and quite a few frogs. A turtle was sighted but not caught. Ken brought some containers to hold the “critters” for everyone to have a good look – then they were released back to the water. The pictures show the main area we were exploring and then the adventurous 3

kids who set off upstream with one grandparent close by for supervision.

August 27 “Festival of the Wild Child”: We didn’t have a host to organize this as an UNPLUG event but we sent out email notices to our UNPLUG families about the “Festival of the Wild Child” Family event at the High Lonesome Nature Reserve. I’m not sure if anyone went on their own – next year, it would be nice to go as a group. “The annual Nature themed day is filled with a variety of activities including scavenger hunts, nature walks and workshops that offer families the chance to share creative outdoor discovery and play. It is an affordable day of woodland fun.”



September to October UNPLUG Plans

September 11 “Trip to Morris Island Conservation Area”: Ryan will lead the group exploring Morris Island Conservation Area. You’ll trek through different forest types, and catch some incredible views of nearby islands in the Ottawa River. And it’s a great place to spot wildlife, especially deer but also birds, turtles, and other wildlife.

September 25: “Build, Decorate & Fly Kites”: a reprise of last summer’s UNPLUG program where the kids decorate and build their kites at St. John’s Church and then head over to Walter Zadow School to fly them. Let’s hope for a nice breeze that day.

October 2: “Farm & Forest Adventures” continue at the Zimmerling Farm with leaders Julie and Ryan. Trips to the farm are always well attended by UNPLUG kids (so register early). What can be seen differs throughout the year; Julie expects in early fall, kids will see baby goats and other farm animals, and there are also plans to play outdoor survival games.

October 16: “UNPLUG Challenge II” at Robert Simpson Park. Craig will lead this again with help from big Phoenix.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The property committee met this week to plan the replacement of the Basement Floor. It has been decided that all areas will be Vinyl Plank. The Vinyl will be installed over a subfloor product made entirely of plastic, therefore waterproof. Plan is for all of the basement to be completed by Thanksgiving, except for the front washrooms and hall.



Other work has gone on these past few weeks: lights changed out, new bulbs and batteries in some exit lights, improved the fit of the front and back door, raised the TV in the sanctuary, cleaned up the wiring at the AV station, eaves-troughing improved on the Manse side of the church, excavation and waterproofing of a section of the basement wall, fixed the fan in the lounge, replaced the faucets in the lounge, and in the Men’s washroom, repointed the brick-work at the front door and attached fire extinguishers to the wall . The fire extinguishers are located:

1. By the coat rack in the Narthex,
2. Adjacent to the doorway in Pastor’s office,
3. Back Entrance hallway,
4. Bottom of basement stairs from the back entrance.

Thanks to Jeff, Randy, Lorne R., Gerald, Dave and Fred.



September 2022



BIRTHDAYS

September 5th—Gwen Steinke

Sept 5th—Jessica Elliot

Sept 7th—Rhonda McTeer

Sept 11th—Cathy Frivalt

Sept 18th—Beryl Richardson

Sept 29th—Dave Burkett

ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 4th—Bob & Debbie Witt

Sept 6th—Henry & Lois Rosien

Sept 12th—Rick & Cathy Frivalt

Sept 29th—Elmer & Marion

Please join us for an

OPEN HOUSE

*to celebrate the 65th
Wedding Anniversary of*



Henry & Lois Rosien

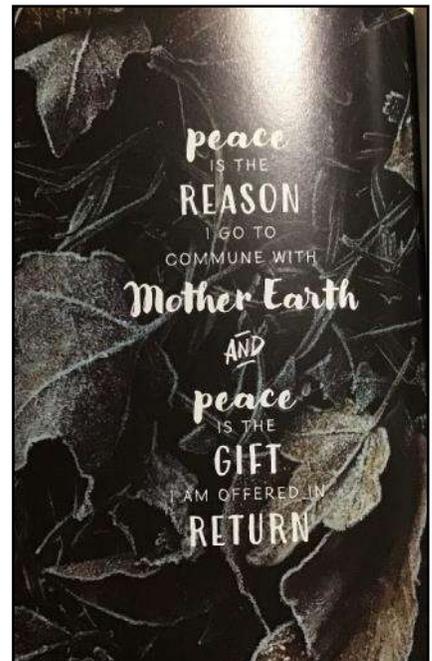
On Saturday, September 10, 2022,
from 1:00 - 4:00 pm,
at the home of Kevin Rosien

1167 Kippen Road/
1434 McLaughlan Road, White Lake

BEST WISHES ONLY



Quote and art from 'One Drum', a book by Richard Wagamese



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2022



	Weeks (Sun-Sat)	Watering	Grass Cutters
Watering 2-3 times/ week	4-Sep	Elmer & Marion L	Jeff
	11-Sep	Debbie W & Phoenix	Bob
	18-Sep	Cathy Z	Lorne

DATE	READING	ALTAR	USHERS	COUNTERS	Social
Sept 4 th	Andy Kalnins	Barb & Gerald	Cory and Andy (Enid)	Cory and Andy (Enid)	
Sept 11 th	Youth	Barb & Gerald	Cory & Andy	Cory & Andy	Beryl & Keith
Sept 18 th	Youth	Barb & Gerald	Cory & Enid	Cory & Andy	
Sept 25 th	Youth	Barb & Gerald	Cory & Andy (Enid)	Cory & Andy (Enid)	Pastor Norine
Oct 2 nd	Joy Statham	Beryl & Keith	Debbie & Bob	Debbie & Bob	

