

The Mustard Seed



October 2026 Newsletter

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

47 McLachlin Street South, Arnprior, Ontario
K7S 2Z1

“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

Contact Information

Church Office Phone Number: 613-623-4562

You can find us on:

Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church Arnprior
Web: stjohsarnprior.com



Church Council

Ryan Zimmerling (Chair)	613-978-3900
Melissa Watt	613-858-9932
Cheryl Supple	613-623-4514
Dave Burkett	613-618-5729
Cathy Zimmerling	613-899-8503

Pastoral Care

Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Ritva Williams	613-408-2087
Assistant Pastor Rev. Norine Gullens	613-282-5032

For pastoral emergency please contact Pastor Norine first.

Getting involved at St. John's

A question that pulls us in many directions - church, family, community and friends - how can we help.

There are many avenues in the church that need help.....most activities / jobs actually take very little time - to a few chores that might take an hour or so. You might want to consider reading the lessons and prayers during the service? Are you interested in helping with the children and their lessons? Is hospitality your thing, bringing snacks/goodies for coffee hour, do you like meal planning?

It is the perfect time to get involved at St. John's. We all benefit when we share our time, talent and treasure with one another. Interested in seeing/starting something new, or bring back an old favorite item? Share your idea with one another, council and the pastor!

Pastor's Message

Welcome, Autumn, arms full of summer's blessings, carrying the seeds of life for next year's planting. Come, enter our homes with your golden wisdom; be our guest and share our tables. Guide us in reflecting upon the summer now gone, that we might give thanks for its many gifts. (Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim by Edward Hays)

Today (September 22) is the autumnal equinox when day and night are of equal length and fall officially begins. You can tell the nights are cooler, the leaves are starting to change colors, harvesting of gardens and crops is underway. It is a season of thanksgiving and of stewardship — of counting our blessings and asking Christ to show us how we can use our blessings to bless others. In this season of who and what do you give thanks for? How will you be pay forward the blessings you have received?

Here's what I am giving thanks for, at this time:

- the privilege of being asked to preside at Jacob Elliot's confirmation on September 6!
 - meeting Kallin and Rory, Blake, Nathan and Clare when they came to Sunday school in August and September.
 - the commitment of Mellissa, Ryan, and Alison to organizing and facilitating SJL's monthly Sunday school.
- Our young people are seeds of life to be nurtured to carry forward the faith, traditions, and legacy of St John's.



WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Let me begin with a special thank you to Bonnie Hardman, who is joining Lynne Zander and Craig Burkett in taking turns on the organ/piano bench.

As the seasons change, so does worship. Our liturgy for the autumn and winter seasons will be ELW Setting 4. In the green LBW it was Setting 2, a familiar and favorite setting for many.

A couple of tweaks - we are experimenting with include:

- beginning the service with my words of welcome, followed by the ringing of the bells, and the rite of confession (admitting why we need to come to church) and forgiveness (hearing that we are loved and belong in church)
- introducing the Offering with a word of thanksgiving, following by passing the plates/bringing them to the altar during the Offering Song.

The Worship Team is engaged in conversation about two possibilities:

- once-a-month online worship, as support members who are unable to come in-person
- project the hymn lyrics on the big screen. There would be a \$25 month cost for a Reprint Copyright License, but the larger font might be an important service to members who struggle with the font-size in the ELW cranberry hymnal.

The Worship Team welcomes your input on these matters. Please contact Randy Zimmerling and/or email me at pastorritva@gmail.com.

Pastor Ritva

Draft Minutes of Sept 13th, 2026 Council Meeting

Attendance:



Pastor Ritva
Ryan Zimmerling
Dave Burkett

Melissa Watt
Cathy Zimmerling

Cheryl Supple

Ryan called the meeting to order at 11:45 pm. Pastor Ritva opened with devotions.

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda** – Ryan moved that the agenda be adopted as presented, Cheryl Supple seconded, CARRIED.
- 2. Approval of June 15th, 2026 council meeting minutes:** – Ryan pointed out that the draft minutes missed the discussion regarding moving \$5,000 to a GIC. Ryan Zimmerling moved that the minutes be accepted as amended and Cheryl Supple seconded, CARRIED.
- 3. Council Orientation:** Pastor Ritva distributed an article written by Dan Hotchkiss titled: “Who owns a Congregation” around the Mission and Vision of a congregation and the purpose of council. Hotchkiss states that “The specific owner that the council must serve is the congregation’s mission: “a congregation’s bottom line is the degree to which the mission is achieved” and “achieving the mission is what the board is accountable for.” There was support for revisiting the Mission Statement. A process for engagement is being developed.
- 4. Treasurer:** Ryan reported that we spend more than \$60 / month on a land line and the 3-year contract with Bell is set to be renewed this winter. There was a discussion around either getting rid of the land line or finding an alternative. Ryan moved that we terminate the landline and have the chairperson’s phone number be listed as the point of contact for the public. The motion was not seconded. Ryan requested a credit card for St. John’s to simplify paying bills and other expenses. Dave moved that council authorize a credit card for St. John’s with a \$5,000 limit. Cheryl Supple seconded, CARRIED.
- 5. Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Ritva shared the Worship Planning Report which has services planned to the end of December. There was a discussion regarding “Passing the Plate” especially when we have a number of visitors such as during special events (e.g., baptism). It was generally agreed that beginning Communion from the front pews will work better.
- 6. Property:**
 - A new LED emergency light has been installed at the front stairs and 2 exit lights converted to LED. Thanks to Rex Z. for his continued support.
 - A sound system was implemented for the outdoor service.
 - Projects in planning:
 - o Storm Window installation in the Loft
 - o Church sign refresh*
 - o Annual leaf pickup
 - o Furnace and humidifier preparations for winter
 - o Fall workday**

* Our current plans for church sign refresh includes: cleaning and sanding current sign; purchasing lettering that is easier to read vs. current gothic style; installing plexiglass on top of lettering. Council will be asked for input on signage content.

** Workday to include items that cleaner can’t get to such as: Carpet cleaning; Stained glass window cleaning; dusting in hard-to-reach spots. We will advertise and request other volunteers to participate.

Meeting closure: Meeting closed with prayer. Next regular meeting will be October 4th, following service.



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 1-2pm Muslim Community	3
4 <u>19th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Social Council meeting	5	6	7 9:30-2:30 Pastor Ritva in office Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion	8	9 1-2pm Muslim Community	10 Bartly & Linda Roberts Cathy Zimmerling
11 <u>Sunday of Thanksgiving</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Greg & Debbie Steinke	12 Thanksgiving Day Nate Zimmerling	13	14 Noon – 1pm Music 'n Motion	15	16 1-2pm Muslim Community	17 9 am Men's Breakfast at Jim's Restaurant 9 am Camp Lutherlyn Fall work day
Pastor Ritva on Vacation						
18 <u>21st Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Fr. Rick Durrett	19	20	21 Jeff Kargus	22	23 1-2pm Muslim Community Bob Hinchley & Enid Blackwell	24
Pastor Ritva on Vacation						
25 <u>Reformation Sunday</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Fr. Rick Durrett Social Rosemary Drziak	26 Kayla Zimmerling	27 Fred Steinke	28 9:30-2:30 Pastor Ritva in office	29	30 Estella Boese	31 Halloween  Joyce Headrick
Pastor Ritva on Vacation						

October Celebrations

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



Oct 10th Bartly & Linda Roberts
 Oct 11th Greg & Debbie Steinke
 Oct 23rd Bob Hinchley & Enid Blackwell

Volunteer Schedule – October

Date	Ushers / Greeters	Altar Guild	Reader	Communion Assistant	Music	Counters	Social
4		Barb F.	Randy Z	Randy Zimmerling	Lynne Z.	Phyllis R & Randy Z.	Kargus
11		Barb F.	Jessica & Family	Lynn Rosien	Bonnie H.	Phyllis R & Lynn R.	
18		Barb F.	Jeff K	Lynn Rosien	Craig B.	Phyllis R & Lynn R.	
25		Barb F.	Lynn R	Lynn Rosien	Lynne Z.	Phyllis R & Lynn R.	Rosien

If you would like to assist in any of the above tasks, please contact:

Readers – Bob Witt
 Counters – Ryan Zimmerling
 Social – Debbie Kargus
 Birthdays / Anniversaries – Debbie Witt
 Altar Guild – Barb Formuziewich / Pastor Norine

Communion Assistants – Pastor Norine
 Sunday School – Mellissa Watt
 Ushers/Greeters – Maureen Rueckwald



Sponsoring Social Coffee Hour

Are you interested in helping with a social after service, but are unable to host the social yourself - why not consider donating towards a social and leave the hosting up to someone else!

Your donation could be:

- homemade treats
- purchased treats, cheese, crackers or fruit that you bring in
- money to put towards the purchase of treats, cheese, crackers or fruit that the social team picks up

OR, are you able to host a social where the treats are provided by someone else and you do the set-up, make the tea and coffee and clean-up?

OR, perhaps you like fully hosting by providing the treats, setting-up and cleaning-up!

If any of these ideas are a possibility for you, or if you have any questions, please contact Debbie Kargus.

Congregational News / Updates

Altar Guild – Anyone who is interested in learning about Altar Guild and helping out, please chat with Barb Formuziewicz.

In response to requests, the book mentioned in Pastor Ritva's sermon on September 13 is *"Change Your Questions, Change Your Life"* by Marilee Adams (Berrett-Koehler Publications Inc. 2015). We learn about the Judger Mindset and how to avoid falling into the "Judger Pit" of despair!

Pastor Ritva was delighted to celebrate Jacob Elliot's Confirmation on September 6 together with parents Jessica and Rob, brother Sawyer, extended family, and the St John's faith community. Thank you to everyone who made the day super special!" Congratulations to Jacob Elliot on his confirmation on Sept 6th.



Special thanks to everyone who included Claudette Fleury in your prayers. Claudette passed away peacefully on Sept 22nd with family at her side. Claudette was the mother Enid Blackwell's son Gavin

Camp Lutherlyn Fall Workday

October 17th is the Fall workday: 9:00 – 2:00. There's lots of leaf raking and little odd jobs to do. Lunch will be served. If you can make it, please let Dave Burkett know: dave.burkett@gmail.com and he will RSVP for the group. Bringing work gloves, rakes and small tools helps.



Music 'n Motion Program at St. John's



Our Wednesday noon community program led by Veronic Bertrand has continued throughout the whole year, even during 'quieter' summer months. All are welcome to drop in and check out the music, easy dance moves, yoga and/or social support. Free will donations or just bring the gift of your presence.

Thanks to those who provided mirrors and installed them to make our downstairs an inviting place to gather and give thanks for body and music!

St. John's Vision Statement:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a welcoming, compassionate fellowship of believers who serve God through joyful outreach and stewardship of the gifts of grace.

St. John's Mission Statement:

Our mission is to minister to the needs of this diverse community. To be a vibrant, visible and growing congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada by engaging in effective evangelism and service in our community.



Community Events

- Oct 3** United in Song Concert
Hosted by St. Andrews United Church
7 pm
Tickets – JEREMYFISHERMUSIC.COM or SEANMCCANNSINGS.COM
Contact information – Donna at St. Andrews United Church
- Oct 7** The Lunch Bunch is hosted by the Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home
Noon till 2pm at the Arnprior Legion
Cost is \$15.00 which includes sandwich, soup, dessert and entertainment
Tickets need to be purchased by Oct 2nd at the Seniors At Home office
- Oct 14** Luminaries – Light up the Labyrinth (Galilee Centre)
From 4-8pm at the Galilee Centre with vegan & regular chili/hot cider/cookies provided
Come join Labyrinth community friends and walkers of all ages to join us. We will light the Galilee's labyrinth with over 400 candles while enjoy walking the glowing path together in the autumn air, under the stars, with music from local musicians. Bring your family, friends. This is a Free and open to everyone – meanwhile free-will donations will be accepted. Please RSVP so we prepare for enough people
- Oct 17** Block Part at the John A. Gillies Recreation Centre in Braeside
4-8pm with activities and lawn games, ending with a Halloween movie inside
Whether you're coming for the music, the food or just to connect with neighbours, this is the perfect way to celebrate the fall in McNab/Braeside.
- Oct 18** Reformation Service & Dinner hosted by the Upper Ottawa Valley Area lay ministry team
3pm at the Rankin Community Centre
Cost is \$35 per person for a roast port dinner with all the trimmings
Tickets and more information is available from Randy Z or Pastor Norine.
- Oct 26** Elections Day



PRAYER LIST

Please include these people in your daily prayers.

Rory, Gerald, Stella, Jacqueline, Vicki, Joy, Tere, Briar, Oliva, Claude, Debbie & Bob W.

Newsletter Submissions

Hello everyone, please send any updates or new information you would like to add to the newsletter to Lynn by the 25th of each month. Submissions can be sent to Lynn by email at larosien@hotmail.com or you can give her a call at 613-621-1966.

