

The Mustard Seed



April 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 see, which a man took, and sowed in his filed; 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 it 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: stjohnsarnprior.com



Church Council

Ryan Zimmerling	(Chair)	613-978-3900
Mellissa Watt		613-858-9932
Cheryl Supple		613-623-4514
Dave Burkett		613-618-5729
Cathy Zimmerling		613-899-8503
Other		
Enid Blackwell – Treasurer		613-623-7017

For emergency Pastoral care please contact Pastor Norine at 613-282-5032.

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!

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A note from Pastor Norine

Everyone is waiting for spring! Home has become the cozy place this winter! Home is more than a place. Homes hold families together and it is where your life happens. Home is the place where people grow, build memories, gather together for difficult moments and celebrate special occasions. Home is a privilege these days that none of us should take for granted considering the world situation.

The family is viewed as an emotional unit rather than just a group of individuals. Members are intensely connected. They stay connected through rough times and good times. So much so, that a change in one person's functioning triggers reciprocal changes in others and it affects their thoughts and feelings, and the tasks at hand. We all know that inside homes, families members are not always in agreement about everything. Everyone has their own perspective or interpretation of a situation.

Now, please humor me and reread the preceding paragraphs again and substitute the word my church instead of home/s.

“Church” is like “home”! Family systems apply in the same way. Often there is deep and grave misunderstandings or much hurt. So how do you deal with a situation like this in your home? We gather together to sort it out! We see if there maybe could be some reconciliation.

Your new Church Council recognizes that we as a faith community need to gather together with an “outside” trained facilitator hopefully before the summer. Presently, we are investigating the information we need to enable this to happen.

We need to remember also that everyone who is involved in ministry within our church is a volunteer. We are not perfect!

As Martin Luther stated. “We are all saints and sinners at the same time.”

God bless us all!

Sincerely, P + Norine



Draft Minutes of March , 2026 Council Meeting

Attendance:

Pastor Norine	Mellissa Watt	Cheryl Supple
Ryan Zimmerling	Cathy Zimmerling	
Dave Burkett		

Meeting called to order 12:20 pm. Pastor Norine opened with devotions.

1. Council Appointee and Election of Officers

- Ryan moved and Mellissa seconded that Cathy Zimmerling be appointed as a council member for a 1-year term. CARRIED.
- Mellissa Watt nominated Dave Burkett as Secretary, seconded by Cheryl. CARRIED
- Dave nominated Ryan Zimmerling as chair and Mellissa Watt as vice Chair, Cathy seconded. CARRIED.
- Current Bank Signing officers are Enid Blackwell and Debbie Witt. Council asked Cathy Zimmerling to be an additional signing officer and she agreed.

2. Interim Pastor

- Pastor Norine and Synod are handling the search for an interim Pastor. Council went to an in-camera session for discussion of options
- Pastor Norine has scheduled April Worship – this information is on page 6 of the newsletter

3. Pastor’s Report

- The AGM and Parochial reports were submitted to Synod.
- Pastor provided Grief support to: 3 families; Sunday School; Altar Guild; visits to senior; meetings: Council/ AGM/ Cluster and OVMAT.
- Pastor brought the Lay leadership workshop on May 2nd to council’s attention.
- Discussion surrounding the Video camera recording audio: Ryan to ask Randy if this audio recording can be stopped. Sunday School on April 12th.
- Pastor Norine summarized the Council Liaisons / Volunteers.

Treasurer	Enid Blackwell / Financial Secretary Adam Rueckwald
Worship	P+Norine (and eventual Interim)
Pastoral Care	P+Norine, Enid, Debbie W.
Fellowship	TBD, Deb Kargus
In-House Celebrations	TBD, Debbie W.
Outreach	P+ Norine, Jeff Kargus, Maureen Rueckwald
Youth	Mellissa W.
Communications	Newsletter: Lynn Rosien Emails: Dave, Debbie W. Lynn Electronics: Jeff
Property	TBD, Jeff, Loren R., Fred, Bob W., Randy

4. Financial Report – Enid submitted a written Treasurer’s report for the period Jan-Feb 2026 showing a deficit of \$959. Dave moved that Enid be asked to develop a revised budget with council assistance to be presented to the congregation for input and approval, Ryan seconded, CARRIED. Dave to liaise with Enid.

5. Property: Pastor Norine to ask Lorne R. to be Council liaison for Property.

6. Previous Council on-going work

Enid submitted a written report outlining 4 initiatives that previous council was working on. Ryan volunteered to handle the Facebook page. The rest were deferred to the April meeting).

Meeting closure: Meeting closed with prayer. Next regular meeting will be on April 20th, at 12:15 pm



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Noon – 1pm Music ‘n Motion	2 Holy Thursday	3 Good Friday 10:30 Worship 1-2pm Muslim Community	4 Victoria Weighenthal
5 <u>Easter</u> 9:00 am Easter Continental Breakfast before service 10:30 Holy Communion	6	7	8 Noon – 1pm Music ‘n Motion	9 Chloe Zimmerling	10 1-2pm Muslim Community	11
12 <u>1st Sunday after Easter</u> 10:30 Service of the Word Sunday School	13	14	15 Noon – 1pm Music ‘n Motion	16	17 1-2pm Muslim Community	18 9am Men’s Breakfast at Jim’s
19 <u>2nd Sunday after Easter</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Food Bank Sunday with Linda Roberts	20 Council Meeting 12:15	21	22 Earth Day Noon – 1pm Music ‘n Motion Rory Brohart Mark & Diane Boese	23	24 1-2pm Muslim Community	25 Newsletter submissions due
26 <u>3rd Sunday after Easter</u> 10:30 Holy Communion Dr. Ritva Williams	27	28	29	30		

April Celebrations



April 4th – Victoria Weichenthal
 April 9th – Chloe Zimmerling
 April 22nd – Rory Brohart



April 22nd - Mark & Diane Boese

Volunteer Schedule – April

Date	Ushers / Greeters	Altar Guild	Reader	Communion Assistant	Music	Counters	Social
3	Maureen & Lorne	Barb			Jeff		
5	Maureen & Lorne	Barb	Bob	Greg	Lynne Z.		Breakfast
12	Maureen & Lorne	Barb	Seth		Jeff		
19	Maureen & Lorne	Barb	Jeff/Debbie	Seth	Karen P.		Yes
26	Maureen & Lorne	Barb	Maureen	Enid	Lynne Z.		

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

Readers – Bob Witt	Communion Assistants – Pastor Norine
Counters – Enid	Sunday School – Mellissa Watt
Social – Debbie Kargus	Ushers/Greeters – Maureen Rueckwald
Birthdays / Anniversaries – Debbie Witt	



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.

Easter Celebrations

If you wish to contribute to the Easter Flower Fund, you can do so 2 ways. Add a donation to your envelope and mark it for Easter flowers or there will be special Easter Flower envelopes in the narthex.



April 3 - Good Friday Service
10:30 am Worship

April 5 - Easter Sunday
9-10 am Easter continental Breakfast
Relax downstairs while enjoying coffee, tea and some treats
10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

Church Events

CLWR Breakfast on March 22nd

With special thanks to our Outreach Committee, we were treated to a wonderful breakfast. Goodwill donations were accepted and will be going to Canadian Lutheran World Relief initiatives.



Council installation 2026

Thank you to all who will be serving on council for this coming year.



Food Bank Sunday

On Sunday, April 19th, it is our annual Food Bank Sunday. We are pleased to have our own Linda Roberts come and present the great work and need that the Food Bank delivers. At this point of time the Food Bank is in need of grocery/recycle bags. We urge everyone to bring in any extra bags that they have to the church in hope that we can give Linda a box full of bags.



Thank You's

Outgoing Council members:

Enid Blackwell for 6 years being on council and her leadership with worship
Andy Kalnins for the last 2 years being chairperson on council, leading and assisting in worship
Debbie Witt for the last 2 years on council, especially in the role of secretary
Karen Greening for 2 years on council, being the liaison for the outreach team and assisting with many aspects of worship

April Showers Bring May Flowers



This saying is often understood to have two meanings, with “April showers” symbolizing discomfort, change, and adversity while “May flowers” may symbolize hope, growth, and new beginnings.

Dear members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for taking part in our Friends of Creation Challenge and for the care and commitment your congregation has shown toward creation. Through your participation, you joined congregations across the country who are taking meaningful steps to protect the environment and live out their faith through stewardship. Your efforts truly make a difference.

We are grateful for the energy, creativity, and dedication your congregation brought to this challenge. Thank you for walking alongside Canadian Lutheran World Relief in caring for our shared home.

Blessings, **Cody Cleave - Church Relations Officer** Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)



Lessons for Life

Here is the start of a series of **5 Life Lessons – It is Better To Be Nice Than To Be Right** that has been sent to us by Gerry Rosenquist – a cousin of Enid's.

Lesson 1- Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.



Community Events

April 4th

The Bunny Run – a spring race to get people ready for the busy summer competitions
Starting at 11:45 at the Robert Simpson Park
There will be a 2km, 5km and 10 km runs Noon – 2 pm
For more information contact – Lucas Power 613-623-7301

April 15th

Diners' Club
Put on by the Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home Program
5 – 7pm at Jim's Restaurant
This months choice of food is either 1 pc fish and ships or Hot hamburger with mased potatoes (includes soup, dessert and tea / coffee)
Entertainment by Rick Leben
Tickets are \$25.00 and you can purchase them at the office or calling 613-623-7981

May 1 & 2nd Celebrate the Classics

Hosted by the Arnprior Community Choir
Friday May 1, 7:30 pm
Saturday May 2, 2 pm

May 2nd

Lay Ministry Resources
Grace Lutheran Church Eganville
Please RSVP with Pastor by April 10th
More information see poster enclosed and on the bulletin board



Camp Lutheran

Summer youth camp has hired all their required male counselors, but still needs:

- 1 more female counselor
- 2 lifeguards
- A program director and assistant



For more information or if you wish to apply, please do so through their website at <https://www.lutherlyncamp.ca/>



PRAYER LIST

Please include these people in your daily prayers.

Rory, Linda, Gerald, Stella, Jacqueline, Vicki, Rachel, Beryl, Joy, Joyce, Tere B., Briar & Alivia, Claude, Mary, Claudette, Pastor Lori and Jennifer.

Prayers for Others

If you wish to add / delete a person(s) to the prayer list, please speak to the Pastor Norine.

Newsletter Submissions

Hello everyone, please send any updates or new information you would like to add to the newsletter to Lynn before 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.

