

The Mustard Seed

April 2016

The Monthly Newsletter of

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church*

*47 McLachlin Street, Amprior,
Ontario K7S 2Z1*

Pastor:

Norine Gullons **282-5032**
Church Office: 623-4562

*Pastor's office hours:
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-Noon*

Chairperson:

Randy Zimmerling 623-9733
Ryan Zimmerling 622-5939
Jeff Kargus 623-0192
Beryl Richardson 623-4351
Lois Rosien 623-3010
Rhonda McTeer 623-0328
Melissa Watt 432-9305
Cory Weckworth 793-3701



"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

From the Pastors Desk,

"Eternity"

by Judith Frost

The manger The cross The tomb

Empty and forlorn, discarded, outgrown like baby shoes, schoolbags, and even cemetery plots.

They turned out to be only a means to the end . . .

which was of course the beginning for us of Eternity.

Come to rest in that feed trough for such a tiny space of time.

From Esprit ELW-ELCIC winter magazine 2009 p. 5

It feels like we have been racing through the Lenten season and perhaps now that it is Easter we can slow

down a bit and rest in God's loving care. As I take a look at the April dates in the newsletter my thought was that there is never a dull moment at St. John's. Besides having the Rite of Healing Prayers on April 3 and Rev. Fred Haak as worship leader on April 10 we have a *special CLWR Sunday* coming up on the 24th of April. Retired ELCIC missionary Bonnie Wepler (who now lives and works in Ottawa) spent time in PNG – Papua New Guinea. PNG is in the south western Pacific and is noted for having the world's worst access to clean water. Bonnie will be presenting to us a picture of what living there is like! We hope you come and support our efforts to learn about a pocket of the third world. *I encourage you to wear something colorful that Sunday to church and enjoy a different kind of worship experience.*

Enjoy the warmth of the SON this Easter season.

P+ Norine

This year, St. John's will participate in "The Big Give" community event by hosting our Annual Barbeque on Saturday, June 4th, 2016. Other churches in the community will also be hosting their own events as part of this initiative.



The idea of a city-wide "Big Give" dates back to 2009. A local church in Ottawa had just completed *The 40 Days of Community* by Rick Warren. The challenge at the end of the book study was to find a church-wide project that would reach the community in a unique way.

Kathy Blakely woke up early one morning with the idea of a free garage sale. It was something that was easy to do and wouldn't cost the church a lot of money. As she shared her vision with others, it became evident that this was a "God idea." The first Big Give was held that year, and Kathy had a dream to see churches all over the city do the same thing on the same day.

In 2014, Richard Long of Love Ottawa heard of the idea and approached Kathy about partnering together. A committee was formed, and in June of 2015, 52 churches across the nation's capital joined together for a unified day of radical giving.

Through the ongoing partnership with Love Ottawa and One Way Ministries, the team hopes the event will continue to grow and be an incredible blessing to communities in Ottawa and across the country.

[The Big Give is a] group of volunteers who passionately believe that kindness and generosity are an integral part of our faith. Every year, we mobilize churches across the country to extravagantly bless their neighbourhoods through a unified day of radical giving where everything is free.

For more information and videos please go to: <http://www.thebiggive.ca/>

April Event Calendar

Sunday	3rd	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Rite for Healing Prayers
Wed. -Sun.	6 th - 10 th	Pastor Norine attends Eastern Synod Council meetings in Kitchener
Sunday	10th	Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Rev. Fred Haak guest worship leader
Wednesday	13 th	Arnprior Ministerial noon - 1:00 p.m. Pastor working at St. James Renfrew in the afternoon
Thursday	14 th	Ottawa Valley Lutheran Pastors Meeting St. Timothy's, Pembroke 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday	17th	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Worship Service in Renfrew with Open House to follow to meet and greet Pastor Norine
Monday	18 th	Church Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	20 th	Worship at The Grove 11:00 a.m. Pastor working at St. James Renfrew in the afternoon Pastor attending St. James Council Meeting 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	21 st	St. John's morning coffee discussion group meets in lounge 10:00 a.m. to noon
Saturday	23 rd	Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre AGM Zion, Pembroke at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday	24th	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. CLWR Sunday with guest speaker Bonnie Wepler
Wednesday	27 th	Pastor working at St. James Renfrew in the afternoon
Thursday	28 th	St. John's FINAL morning coffee discussion group meets in lounge 10:00 a.m. to noon



If you would like to sponsor communion or provide flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or to honour a special event, please sign up in the Narthex.

Church Council Report

Pastor's report:

- ✚ Pastor reviewed her monthly activity report detailing where she spent her time over the last month.
- ✚ Other high lights - there have been 4-7 people attending the weekly Lenten discussion group
- ✚ Special Service Dates:
 - April 10 – Pastor Fred Haak as service leader
 - April 24-retired missionary Bonnie Weepler guest speaker
 - May15th- Jeff Pym (Synod stewardship and investments) will join us for discussion after service.
 - Still to come is a confirmed date for a visit from Bishop Pryse.

Financial Report:

- Current offerings are \$3,253 greater than they were last year at this time.
- Our receipts for the Food Bank include \$3,200 from Synod which has already been presented to the Snack Pack program at the Food Bank.
- Our balance Sheet shows \$98,321 in cash.
- Sunday attendance has been averaging close to 50 people each Sunday
- Special thanks to Maxzene and Susan Gillan who performed a review of the book keeping records for 2015. Their efforts in ensuring the integrity of our accounting records are much appreciated.

Outreach:

- Thanks to Julie and Ryan Z. for restarting Sunday School and hosting a winter Fun Day at their farm.
- Our summer barbecue will be held on June 4th this year and will align with a community initiative called the “Big Give”.

Property Maintenance:

- A big thank you again to Gerald F. who has already patched and painted some cracks in the drywall under the stained glass windows.
- If anyone wants to volunteer to do the grass cutting at the church this year, please contact any member of church council. If no volunteers come forward we will have to tender the grass cutting contract again.
- Initial improvements gained in sound volume by moving the balcony speakers forward and adjusting and repositioning the lectern microphone are encouraging. Next steps will be to install a fixed microphone at the altar.

We appreciate the continued support of congregation members.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of church council,

Randy Zimmerling



Catch the Excitement!

Thanks to Ryan and Julie Zimmerling, March 6th, 2016 marked the first day of combined Sunday School and Nursery School at St. Johns for this year.

Children of all ages are encouraged to attend as the curriculum will be fun, educational and spiritual. Sunday School will begin immediately following the Children's message and will finish just prior to Holy Communion. **If you are interested in helping out, please speak to Ryan Zimmerling or another Council Member.**



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Lenten Offering Update

Our congregation has decided that the CLWR portion of the Lenten offerings will go towards flocks of chickens and seeds. A flock of 24 chickens provides a family with food and livelihood at a cost of \$45 per flock. Seeds provide healthy food and income – growing hope for the future. Every \$50 donation provides seeds for two families. If you have any questions please speak to Jeff Kargus.

Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!



ELCIC retired missionary Bonnie Weppler will visit our congregation on Sunday, April 24th to share her experiences. Don't forget to wear something colourful!



A big THANK YOU to Ryan and Julie Zimmerling, their family and friends for hosting our Winter Family Fun Day. A great afternoon was had by all!

Looking for Grass Cutters!



If you want to volunteer to do the grass cutting at the church this year, please contact any member of church council.

If no volunteers come forward we will have to tender the grass cutting contract.



ETERNITY for TODAY

The April, May, June issue is now available in the Narthex!

Postings in the Narthex

- Eastern Synod Lutheran Monthly Newsletter (or access online at: <http://www.easternsynod.org/>)
- Upcoming events at Galilee Centre – website at <http://www.galileecentre.com/programs/>

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2016

SUNDAY	USHERS	READING	COFFEE/SOCIAL	COUNTERS
Apr. 3 rd	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling	Maureen Rueckwald	Barb and Gerry Formuziewich	Enid Blackwell Cathy Zimmerling
Apr. 10 th	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling	Vicki Weichenthal	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling
Apr. 17 th	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling	Andy Kalnins	Marion and Mel Bretzlaff	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling
Apr. 24 th	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling	Joy Statham	Debbie and Jeff Kargus	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling

Thank you volunteers! If you would like to help out, please sign-up in the Narthex!

Note: Volunteers are also needed for weekly Communion set-up and clean-up.
Free training is available! 😊 If interested, talk to a council member.

Website: <http://stjohnsarnprior.com>



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Lutheran-Church-Arnrior/302930049856065>