



St. John's Lutheran Church

47 McLachlin Street, Arnprior, Ontario K7S 2Z1

Pastor: Norine Gullons

Church Office: 623-4562

Pastor's office hours are Tues., Wed., Thurs., 9:00-Noon

Chairperson:	Randy Zimmerling	623-9733
	Jeff Kargus	623-0192
	Lorne Rueckwald	623-8905
	Beryl Richardson	623-4351
	Lois Rosien	623-3010
	Ryan Zimmerling	623-5939
	Rhonda McTeer	623-0328
	Melissa Watt	432-9305

December Calendar

Wednesday	3 rd	Worship at The Villa 10:30am
Thursday	4 th	Adult Advent Bible Study 9:30 - 11:30am at the church
Sunday	7th	Advent II – Service of Holy Communion 10:00am
Thursday	11 th 11 th	Adult Advent Bible Study 9:30 - 11:30am at the church Christmas Music Recital
Sunday	14th 14th	Advent III–Service of Lessons, Carols, Holy Communion 10:00am Ottawa Valley Lutheran Pastor's Gathering at St. John's Anglican Church, Eganville – 5:00pm
Monday	15 th	Council Meeting at 7:30pm
Wednesday	17 th	Worship at The Grove 11:00am
Thursday	18 th	Adult Advent Bible Study 9:30 - 11:30am at the church
Sunday	21st	Advent IV – Service of Holy Communion 10:00am
Wednesday	24th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion 6:45 – Gather for carol singing – Worship begins at 7:00pm
Sunday	28th	Service of The Word and Prayer with Christmas Carols 10:00am
Sunday	Jan. 4th	Epiphany of our Lord – Service of Holy Communion 10:00am



There is coffee, treats and social time every Sunday after service.
Hope to see you there!

November 25th 2014

Dear Parish Family,

I bring you greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

A gift is something that is freely given and offered in love. In the weeks before Christmas many of us are searching for just the right gift for friends and family. This season of Advent is itself a gift. A time set apart to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. We give thanks for God's gift to us as the baby of Bethlehem.

We are living in difficult times. We strive to be a church in mission for others. That mission work may take many forms. It can mean supporting Canadian Lutheran World Relief in their efforts around the world. It may be supporting the Arnprior District Food bank and doing things for people in our own community. It may be supporting our Synod through our benevolence. People respond in many different ways of engaging the world today.

I see three things that will be important in our ministry together. *We need to have a clear view of reality. We will envision the direction we would like to see things move towards. We will continue to step forward with God's grace surrounding us.* I am sure that we will experience signs of hope, times of challenges and other times of opportunities. I encourage each and every one of you to be an active participant in the life of St. John's. May God provide for us and bless our ministry.

As you prepare your hearts and your homes for the coming of the Christ child, may God bless you and yours and may you be a blessing to others during this Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Pastor Norine +

and family; Shannon, Ryan, Paige and Ava.

Hope for our Community – Our "Angel Tree"

This year we are sponsoring a local family of three through The Arnprior and District Food Bank. Our goal is to provide the family with meals for Christmas Day including everything they need to make a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. We also hope to provide some gift items.



Green angels will have food items and a dollar amount for that item. You can choose to purchase the item yourself or donate the dollar amount for the item.



Red angels will have gift items. You must provide these items yourself.

Please Note: All items and/or cash donations are to be at the church Sunday, December 14th for packaging and Christmas delivery. If you have questions please contact Jeff (613)623-0192.

November Church Council Report

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Norine reviewed her activity report for the Sept.-October time frame with church council:

To summarize:

- 50+% of her time was spent on office duties including sermon preparation, bulletin preparation, Sunday hymn selection, answering phone calls from both members and synod staff and dealing with correspondence.
- 15% of her time was spent delivering worship services at our church, at the Grove and assisting with the Anglican service to bless the animals.
- 8% of her time was spent on Pastoral care and visitations.
- 12% of her time was spent in meetings (ministerial, synodical, etc.)
- 15% of her time was spent on other related duties including committee work for synod and preparation for children's Sunday messages.

Pastor Norine will be working with church council to develop a visitation strategy for the New Year.

Financial Report: As of the end of October

We are looking at approximately \$16,000 deficit or loss when compared to offering vs. last year at this time a loss of \$30,258 (which included some one-time expenses such as legal and realty related to the sale of our parsonage. Good news is that current offerings have exceeded last years' at this time by \$11,911 and represents a 37% increase vs. the previous year .Our benevolence offerings are about 10% lower than last year and we will be discussing this with the congregation and plan on making up the shortfall by:

- 1) Asking for the congregation's assistance in getting us back on track
- 2) Allocating "undesignated funds" during December to benevolence.

As a congregation that can trace its beginnings and formation 125 years ago to the help we received from the "mission portion" of Benevolence, it seems appropriate that in our anniversary year, we acknowledge this assistance by supporting as best we can, the funding of Benevolence. Further good news is that in line with increased giving in current offerings we have experienced a similar increase in average Sunday attendance growing from an average of about 25 people to currently running about 42 people each Sunday. Our balance sheet shows we have approximately \$163,000 in cash and savings mainly as a result of the sale of our parsonage.

Property Report:

We have completed the initial repairs on the down pipes for eaves troughs and completed painting the upper portion of the storm windows and implemented minor repairs. Thanks to a donation of a reconditioned humidifier, we are able to keep sufficient moisture in the air to protect the wood and leather in our pipe organ. We hope this will result in lower maintenance costs and more consistent sound quality. While we have decided to suspend further work on the large window over the main entrance, we are going ahead with the painting of the choir loft and stairwell this winter.

Food Bank/CLWR:

Jeff gave an explanation on the types of support we will be providing through the Food Bank to a local family in need. He will be providing more information on this community outreach project in the near future. He hopes to have a similar focused project in the New Year for CLWR.

Altar Guild:

Beryl has placed special envelopes for Advent flowers at the back for those who wish to make a donation.

Advent Services:

I expect our Advent services to be something we won't want to miss this year and definitely something we should feel good about inviting others to attend with us. Please continue to pray for your church council and our pastor.

Respectfully,

Randy Zimmerling



Donations for Poinsettias for Christmas

If you wish to sponsor a poinsettia in memory of a loved one, or in thankfulness to God for His many blessings, please pick up an envelope in the Narthex and place your donation in it and put it in the offering plate. For inclusion as part of your total for income purposes, please write your name and number on the envelope. We plan to recognize the poinsettia donations in the Christmas bulletin and January newsletter. We hope to have the flowers in place for Advent II, December 7th. Thank you for your support.

Beryl and Dorothy

Benevolence – What is it used for?

Synod relies on your generosity to support a variety of vibrant and important ministries of the Eastern Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, extending the reach of congregation missions across Canada and the world.

In 2014 Benevolence offerings received by Eastern Synod were divided based on priority as shown below.

Capable Leaders - The largest share of the annual budget is devoted to developing leaders who will provide vision and energy to meet the challenges of ministry in the 21st century.

Effective Mission Partnerships - Synod needs partnerships with other organizations to maximize effectiveness. Our major partner is our national church, the ELCIC, which coordinates global mission, ecumenical efforts and ministry rosters.

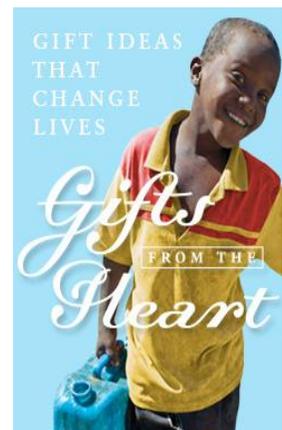
Vibrant Local Ministries - Most local ministry is carried out by congregations, organized into ministry areas. Synodical personnel will devote the largest proportion of their time to supporting congregational ministry.

Focused Framework - The Synod's infrastructure supports all of the programming priorities listed above. In addition, it serves to communicate with members and the general public via the Synod website and Eastern Synod Lutheran newspaper; govern the synod through Synod Assembly, Synod Council, standing committees and task forces; ensure efficient administration of the Synod office.

Note: Total Benevolence giving from congregations has decreased by 5% over 2013.

Above Information can be found www.easternsynod.org

Our focus in
the New Year:



More information
to follow in the
January Newsletter!



Advent Wreath

Advent is the season of *waiting, preparing and hoping*. Our Advent Wreath reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World and we await His coming with great joy. The wreath is a circle which reminds us of eternity, life with no end. The green colour stands for life and growth. The four candles remind us that before Christ came, the people were in darkness, so as we light each one the light grows bringing us closer to the day of His birth.

First Sunday of Advent: Hope (purple)

The first Sunday of Advent we remember the hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations. As followers of Christ, we wait for his return with great hope. We light this candle to remember he came to us humbly in the manger at Bethlehem and gave light and hope to the world.

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace (purple)

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to Him in faith. God asks us to prepare our hearts so that he may come in. Our hope is in God, and in His son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in Him. We light this candle to remind us that He brings peace to all who trust in Him.

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy (pink)

The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her. God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people – for to you is born this day, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.” We light this candle to remember that He brings true and everlasting joy.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love (purple)

The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love God has for us. Jesus shows us God’s perfect love. “For God so loved the world, He gave His only son.” Love is patient, love is kind, love is never rude or selfish. Love keeps no records of wrongs, but rejoices in the right. We light this candle to remind us of how God’s perfect love is found in Jesus.

Christmas Day: The Christ Candle (white)

The white candle in the centre of the wreath is called the Christ Candle. It is meant to be lit on Christmas morning before any other gifts are opened. It is a reminder of the most important gift of all and the reason for this joyous day... **the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Due to the Privacy Act we require your consent to continue to publish names for birthdays and anniversaries in the Church Newsletter.



Permission forms available in the Narthex.



Lutherlyn Camp & Conf Centre is selling 50th Anniversary calendars for the year 2015. They are \$20. Please pay Pastor if you would like to purchase one.



We filled 13 Shoeboxes!

*Thank you for your support.
Jeff*



Postings in the Narthex

- Eastern Synod Lutheran Monthly Newsletter (or access online at: <http://www.easternsynod.org/>)
- Upcoming Galilee Centre events for December – Advent in the New Universe and Dickens Dinner
- Solstice 5km Run or 2.5km Fun Walk – December 19th - Galilee Centre Fundraiser

We need volunteers for December for ushering, counting, and communion assistants. Please consider choosing a Sunday (or more if you wish) to help out.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	USHERS	READING	COFFEE/SOCIAL	COUNTERS
Dec. 7 th	Volunteer Needed	Vicki Weichenthal	Enid Blackwell	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 14 th	Volunteer Needed	Debbie Kargus	Alexandra Bantseev	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff
Dec. 21 st	Volunteer Needed	Maureen Rueckwald	Julie Zimmerling	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 24 th	Volunteer Needed	Andy Kalnins	No Social	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 28 th	Volunteers Needed	Ryan Zimmerling	Lois Rosien	Volunteers Needed
Jan. 4 th		Joy Statham	Volunteer Needed	

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

Website: <http://stjohnsarnprior.com>



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