

The Mustard Seed

December 2015

The Monthly Newsletter of

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church*

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

Pastor:

Norine Gullons

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

To the good people of St. James and St. Johns

As I write this letter Christmas is four weeks away! We know that this celebration happens every year and yet we get ourselves all tied up in bows getting ready to celebrate the remembrance of the birth of Christ.

Only four weeks to correspond with family and friends, decorate the house, purchase gifts, to think about, purchase and prepare food necessary for company. Is it any wonder that we hibernate in January after all of this activity!

We live our lives within the context of a Christian faith. We see the world through a perspective knowing that the gifts of time, faith, hope and love are so much more valuable than anything we could ever give anyone from under our trees on Christmas morning.

These are timeless life giving qualities and our families and friends treasure them more than anything else. Even though the world seems quite different for our children and grandchildren than the one we grew up in, these values remain.

Advent is a time to look ahead at where you are going. We remember these important qualities in our lives and review their current status. Then we can turn our attention to the future and begin to include these traits with God in mind and to move into a future that furthers the growth of these qualities of life. We actively shape our future by how we live today.

My family and I wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas season! We pray that God bless the days ahead of you as you continue to live lives filled with faith, hope and love. As you prepare your hearts and your homes for the coming of the Christ child, may you also be a blessing to others during this Christmas season.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine and family

Hope for our Community – Our “Angel Tree”



This year we are sponsoring a local family of four 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.

Some Angels 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 food item.

Other Angels have gift items. You must provide these items yourself.

If you are making a cash donation please put your money in an envelope (available in Narthex) with your Christmas Angel. If you purchased a gift item and choose to wrap it, please make sure you attach your Angel on the outside so we know who the gift is for.

Please Note:

All items and/or cash donations are to be at the church for Advent-Fest Sunday, December 13th to be wrapped and packaged in preparation for Christmas delivery.

If you have questions please contact Jeff (613)623-0192.

December Event Calendar

Wednesday	2 nd	Worship at The Villa 10:30 a.m. Pastoral care in Renfrew 1-4 p.m.
Sunday	6th	Advent II with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Father Stopa leading service
Saturday	12 th	St. John's caroling at The Villa in Arnprior at 2 p.m.
Sunday	13th	Advent III with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Potluck luncheon and Advent-Fest (see page 5 for details)
Wednesday	16 th	Worship at the Grove 11 a.m. Pastoral care in Renfrew 1-4 p.m. Pastor attending St. James council meeting at 5 p.m.
Saturday	19 th	St. John's caroling at the Grove in Arnprior at 2 p.m.
Sunday	20th	Advent IV with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
Monday	21 st	Church Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	24 th	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion 6:45p.m. carol singing – Service begins at 7:00p.m.
Sunday	27th	Service with Holy Communion with carol singing 10:30 a.m.
Sunday	Jan. 3rd	Epiphany Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.



Bread, wine and bulletins for December 6th are sponsored by the family of Henrietta Jahn in memory of her passing on December 5th, 2014.

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.



Thank you to Max Scobie for the beautiful candle holders at the front of our church. The pair of holders were donated by Max in memory of his wife Lillian.



Church Council Report for November

Pastor's report: Pastor walked council through the details of her activity report. Highlights included:

- Continuing her visits to shut-ins
- Regular monthly service at The Villa
- Arnprior ministerial meeting
- Attendance at Eastern Synod council
- Continuing education time
- Supporting both Renfrew and Arnprior church councils
- Nov.22nd service of "Christ the King" included an opportunity for anointing for healing as part of the service.
- Father John Stopa will be a supply minister for us on Dec.6th

Financial report: Total offerings are up \$3404 vs. last year to the end of Oct. The main increases are in CLWR (\$2043) and Benevolence (\$1400). On the expenses, we have reduced our organ maintenance costs (\$370), chiefly due to raising the humidity levels in the church. Increases in expenses include:

- Investing in national synod delegate attendance (\$1,350)
- Increased benefit payment associated with full time ministerial related costs (\$8,975)
- Office copier expenses (\$223)
- Payroll related costs (full time minister vs. part time last yr. (\$16,193)

Our year-to-date net loss is \$44463 vs. \$16969 for last year at this time.

Our balance sheet shows \$111, 263 in cash and investments.

Other updates: Discussions with Renfrew St. James parish are continuing:

- council reviewed a proposed agreement with Renfrew that splits the Pastor related costs as follows:
80% for Arnprior and 20% for Renfrew
Pastoral time shared will be 1 day per week for Renfrew and the remainder for Arnprior
- Due to the time constraints for young families, we will continue with our Christmas Eve service at 7:00(6:45 caroling time)

Plus our two new initiatives planned for this month:

- We are entering a Christmas float for the annual Santa Claus parade Nov. 28th
- Christmas caroling at The Arnprior Villa 2p.m. Dec. 12th and at the Grove 2p.m. Dec. 19th

Those wishing to join/support us, please contact either Randy or Ryan Zimmerling.

Church property: Thanks to Gerald F. for his continued efforts in sprucing up our interior. To-date he has painted:

- ✓ church basement around the kitchen
- ✓ all washrooms
- ✓ choir loft
- ✓ front and back stairwells
- ✓ rear entrance way including coat rack area in front of lounge

Our next project will be to repaint the lounge.

Gas furnace repairs: Final cost of repairs was almost \$1,400 and included replacing almost all the parts in the basement furnace (motor, both heat exchangers) and heat exchangers in the upstairs furnace.

Volunteers: We are grateful for all the support we receive from members. We still need volunteers for December and new sign-up sheets will be up for the New Year. If you can assist, please take a few moments and sign up on the sheets in the narthex.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of church council,
Randy Zimmerling

Theme: Remembering our Neighbours



You are invited to 10:30a.m.worship on Sun. Dec. 13th. Stay for a potluck lunch at St. John's and be part of our **Advent-Fest**. Our Advent-Fest allows us time to prepare for Christmas.

Just as we get ready for Advent and Christmas in our homes, we will be preparing to help others in our faith community and the Arnprior community, by doing different activities.

- † One group will be going over the Christmas Eve Service
- † One table will be wrapping a small gift for our shut ins
- † Another table will be wrapping the items that have come in from our angel tree

Remember to bring something for the potluck lunch!

Hope to see you then,
Pastor Norine +

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Saturday, Dec. 12th at 2:00 p.m. at the Arnprior Villa

Saturday, Dec. 19th at 2:00 p.m. at The Grove

Your participation is needed. *The more singing voices the better!*

Contact Randy if you can join us.



Our Newsletter has a Name!



The Mustard Seed

Recently the congregation was asked to submit suggestions to name our Newsletter. There were a total of 9 well-thought out submissions. Thank you for sharing your ideas. Last week during council the suggestions were put to a vote and "The Mustard Seed" was chosen as our Newsletter name.

Congratulations Andy!

Andy's thoughts...

"I think that it is a good name as we are a small church with a small newsletter but who knows what can come of it? I think the Mustard Seed is humble and small like we are. Being a seed it must be put in soil and watered and nurtured just like we try to do every Sunday. When we donate to something like the Food Bank or sponsor a family at Christmas it is a small act, but we may be starting something great - we just don't know.

I like Mustard Seed as it is without pretensions or lofty visions of grandeur. But, as it was pointed out by Pastor Norine (today), we must be willing to serve if we want to lead and I think that Mustard Seed would make us mindful of that."



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Update...

A BIG "Thank You" for your support. This year we filled and delivered 17 shoeboxes. Children around the world will be excited to receive your specially packaged gift for Christmas.

Jeff

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/>

(Dec. 17th Christmas Luncheon - <http://www.galileecentre.com/events/christmas-luncheon-december-17-2015-5897.html>)

Dec. 18th Solstice 5k run/2.5k walk - <http://www.galileecentre.com/events/solstice-5km-walk-run-december-18-2015-9092.html> (Food Bank donations welcome)

Dec. 20th Dickens and Dinner - <http://www.galileecentre.com/events/dickens-dinner-december-20-2015-114.html>

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	USHERS	READING	COFFEE/SOCIAL	COUNTERS
Dec. 6 th	Volunteer Needed	Vicki Weichenthal	Marion and Elmer Leeck	Enid Blackwell
Dec. 13 th	Volunteer Needed	Maureen Rueckwald	Maxine Watt	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 20 th	Volunteer Needed	Joy Statham	Enid Blackwell	Volunteer Needed
Christmas Eve Dec. 24 th	Volunteer Needed	Ryan and Zach Zimmerling	_____	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 27 th	Steinke Family	Andy Kalnins	Barb and Gerry Formuziewich	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>