

The Mustard Seed

December 2017

*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:

Ryan Zimmerling 622-5939

Council:

Randy Zimmerling 623-9733

Jeff Kargus 623-0192

Beryl Richardson 623-4351

Lois Rosien 623-3010

Melissa Watt 432-9305



“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. Johns, and our friends,

As I went for a walk this morning to complete an errand, I was thinking about how blessed we are at St. John's.

We are truly thankful to all who have contributed to reducing our deficit. Thank you!

That is not just in terms of money but also creative ideas and time and talents. The ideas that have been suggested will be listed in another section of the newsletter. There is

already a **Christmas Craft Show planned for Dec. 2 at the church.** Please attend and support us - your faith community. Hopefully on Dec. 10th we will have a financial update to share information.

At this time of year, we are all getting ready to celebrate the remembrance of the birth of Christ. Advent is a time to look ahead at where we are going. We remember the important qualities of time, faith, hope, and love in our lives and review their current status. We know these particular gifts are so much more valuable than anything we could ever give any one from under our trees on Christmas morning. Then we 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. Even though the world seems quite different for our children and grandchildren than the one we grew up in, these values remain.

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 in Christ, Pastor Norine and family



Advent-fest

December 10th

Please join us after service for a

Finger Food Potluck lunch

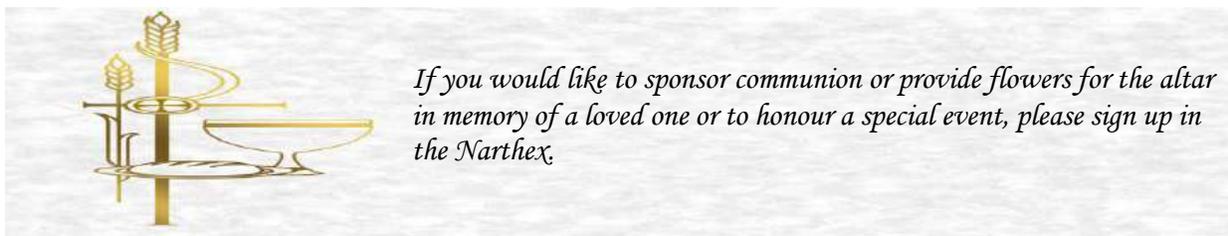
And

To help prepare our church

for Christmas!

December Event Calendar

Saturday	2 nd	Christmas Craft Show and Bake Sale 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church
Sunday	3rd	Advent II – Service of Word and Prayer 10:30 a.m. Guest speaker Caitlin Brydges (Alzheimer/Dementia Society) Almonte Santa Claus Parade – watch for St. John's float (see p. 5)
Saturday	9 th	Men's Breakfast at Jim's Restaurant 8:30 a.m.
Sunday	10th	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30a.m. Advent III – Advent-fest Angel Tree donations due Join us after service for finger food potluck lunch and to help prepare our church for Christmas
Thursday	14 th	Lutheran/Anglican Pastors Meeting 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Grace Lutheran, Eganville
Sunday	17th	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Advent IV
Monday	18 th	Church Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Sunday	24th	** No morning Service ** Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	31st	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
Sunday	January 7th	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.



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

November Church Council Report

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor provided an update on the various worship services and meetings she attended during the previous month including the Lutheran Reformation Service in Pembroke, Eastern Synod Council in Kitchener, as well as numerous pastoral care events, and Continuing Education retreats.

Finance Report

- Despite somewhat lower than anticipated attendance last month, both income and donations have increased, helping to reduce our deficit. Donations that have been received in the month of November have not yet been included in this financial report.
- Council will continue to search for efficiencies, and ways to reduce expenditures, as well as explore fund-raising ideas. The Craft Sale, which will be held in the basement of the church, is on Saturday, December 2, 2017 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Year-to-date benevolence giving is somewhat lower than anticipated, but normally such giving increases in the last couple months of the year.

Other Reports

Property

- Council noted that the church has never looked better. The efforts of those members of the congregation who have been volunteering to help with church cleaning while our custodial staff recovers from an injury are greatly appreciated.
- The floor in the basement downstairs is in disrepair and at least a part of it needs to be ripped up to determine the amount of work and cost involved. This will likely be done in January.

Other Business

- Council is searching for an organist to play at the Christmas Eve Service, which will take place at 5:30 pm. A children's pageant will occur at the start of the Christmas Eve Service.
- St. John's has registered to enter a float in the Arnprior Santa Claus parade on November 25. The theme of this year's float is "HE is the reason, for the season". Participants are asked to show up at the No Frills parking lot at 5:30 pm. The Almonte Santa Claus parade is on December 3rd and participants are asked to meet at the Almonte Community Centre, 182 Bridge St, at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of church council,
Ryan Zimmerling

Tis the season for Santa Claus Parades!

In case you missed it in Arnprior or can't wait to see it again, St. John's Lutheran Church will have a float in the Almonte Santa Claus parade this year on December 3rd. Parade starts at 5:00 (participants should be at the Almonte Community Centre, 182 Bridge Street by 4:30).

Dave & Alison would like to invite any members or friends of St. John's who are attending the Almonte Christmas Parade (Sunday Dec 3rd, 5:00 p.m. start), back to their house after the parade for hot beverages and cookies. Their address is 369 Jamieson St, Almonte. Please let Dave or Alison know if you'd like a map.

For more information contact Ryan Zimmerling.



Our Angel Tree has started!

In support of the Arnprior and District Food Bank

This year we are looking for cash donations to go towards the purchase of roasting chickens for the Christmas hampers at the Arnprior Food Bank. To make a donation simply put cash in the envelope attached to an angel and place in the offering plate or include it in your offering and write "For Chickens" on your envelope.

Thank You for your support!



Do you have a great Fundraising Idea?

We are looking for creative fundraising ideas for St. John's

The following ideas have been suggested so far...

- ❖ Christmas bake and used goods sale
- ❖ "Christmas Cafe" bake sale with items priced. held on a December week night. hot chocolate and cookies "sold" by donation
- ❖ bring back the ham supper around Easter
- ❖ a turkey supper
- ❖ spring yard sale with baked goods
- ❖ monthly themed dinners
- ❖ "first given us . . . ourselves, our time, our possessions" Each person 1. donate 1-2 days pay as special gift... or 2. donate 1-2 days of growth in one's investment portfolio... or 3. exchange or offer time to someone to do needed tasks and donate pay – i.e.: de-cluttering, landfill run, housecleaning . . . or 4. Kijiji sale of items and donate \$



Church Fundraising

Send us your great ideas by email, by dropping them in the church mailbox, by contacting Pastor Norine or member of council. Your idea might be our next great fundraiser!



Just a reminder that the Christmas trees that go at the front of the church had to be discarded. Please consider making a donation toward the cost of the two new trees recently purchased.

A donation jar is in the Narthex!

Thank You!



**Do you or someone you know
play the organ?**

St. John's Lutheran Church is looking for an organist. For further information on remuneration, service times and duties, please email randyzimmerling@hotmail.com or call 613-623-9733.



Don't Forget!



December 9th

8:30 a.m.
Jim's Restaurant
In Arnprior

Please consider joining us
for good food
and good conversation!

***Almonte Civitan Club
Medical Loan Cupboard***

The Almonte Civitan Club has an inventory of good, used medical equipment (hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.) that are available on loan. There is no cost for the service. Donations are always gratefully appreciated and are put towards keeping the medical equipment in good condition. The club will also accept good condition medical equipment and make it available to those who need it. Please contact the club at 613.256.6234.



11 shoeboxes filled!

**Thank you for making a
difference in a Child's life.**

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/>

Galilee Centre Events...

Dickens & Dinner: Sunday, December 17, 3 p.m. A Christmas Carol, dramatic reading and festive meal. \$40. Galilee Centre. 613 623 4242 ext. 21

Solstice Walk/Run: Friday, December 22, 6 p.m. Light up the night, walk/run/socialize. 5k (or less!) \$15 Galilee Centre. 613 623 4242 ext. 21



Helpers for Ushering and Counting are needed!
 If you can help for a Sunday, please sign up in the Narthex.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	USHERS	READING	COFFEE/SOCIAL	COUNTERS
Dec. 3 rd	Dave and Alison Burkett	Andy Kalnins	Joanne and Lorne Bretzlaff	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 10 th	Dave and Alison Burkett	Joy Statham	Advent-fest Finger Foods Potluck	Cathy and Randy Zimmerling
Dec. 17 th	Dave and Alison Burkett	Andy Kalnins	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 24 th	Dave and Alison Burkett	Debbie Kargus Ryan/Zach Z. Mark Boese	**Christmas Eve** No social	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 31 st	Dave and Alison Burkett	Cathy/Randy Zimmerling	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Jan. 7 th Jan. 14 th		Joy Statham Andy Kalnins	Volunteer Needed	

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

Note: Volunteers are always needed weekly.
 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>