

The Mustard Seed

February 2018

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: 9:00-Noon
Tuesday and Thursday

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

Dear faith family and friends,

As I write this, it is a beautiful sunny day and I can even hear the chickadees singing outside. A blue jay visited my birdfeeder this past weekend. Small signs that the long month of January is over.

St. John's has had their Annual General Meeting and good ideas and visions are in place for our steps forward. THANK YOU TO ALL who were able to attend and participated in that meeting.

February will speed by. On Valentine's Day, **Feb 14**, we observe Ash Wednesday and celebrate the beginning of Lent. **We are all invited to attend the Ash Wednesday worship service at Emmanuel Anglican Church on Harrington Street, Arnprior at 7pm.** Our Anglican brothers and sisters joined us for Reformation Sunday, last October.

Beginning **Feb 21, Five Wednesdays in Lent, at 5pm, St. James Lutheran Church in Renfrew (weather providing) will be hosting a soup supper in the hall and then a brief Lenten worship at 5:30 in the sanctuary. You are more than welcome to join us there too.**

The Lenten season offers us a time to take a different journey for Forty days during February and March. (EASTER is on April 1 – April Fool's Day.) It's fun to see how our spiritual holy days occur on secular celebration days!) Our road is called "the way of the cross" leading to Good Friday and Easter.

Robert Frost once wrote, *"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."*

As with any journey we have choices about which road to take. The easiest choice is to take the road that is used most often, well-travelled, we might say. However, during Lent, we offer time and sacred space in our churches in order for us to gather as a community and pray and meditate on God's words. In a world where divergent roads lead to contradictory truths, the road less travelled is the truth of the gospel.

One reason that we add spiritual practices to our Lenten journey is to respond to God's grace in our lives. We worship, read, listen and study to celebrate and give thanks for the faith God has put in us. We allow ourselves to take time to "see God" in our lives and at times of quiet to have God look back at us! God has called you to be his own! May God grace you with holy blessings this Lenten Season.

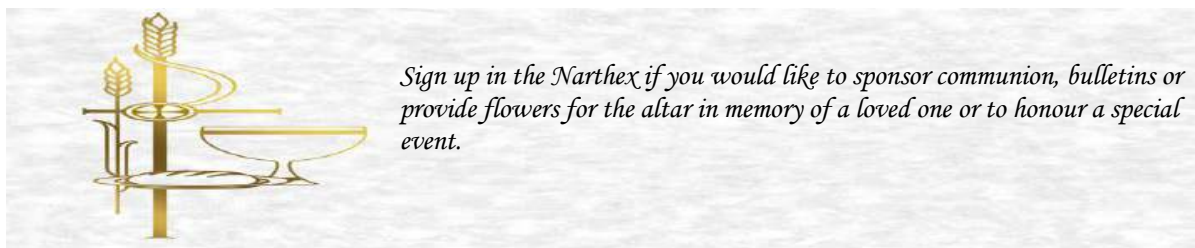
Sincerely, Pastor Norine

Upcoming Event...



February Event Calendar

Sunday	4th	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Thursday	8 th	Lutheran/Anglican Pastors Meeting 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church, Pembroke
Saturday	10 th	Men's Breakfast at Jim's Restaurant 8:30 a.m.
Sunday	11th	Worship Service of Word and Prayer 10:30 a.m. Transfiguration of our Lord ** Note: Pastor attends the AGM for St. James, Renfrew **
Tuesday	13 th	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Emmanuel Anglican Church See ad on page 6
Wednesday	14th	Ash Wednesday Service at St. James, Renfrew 5:00 p.m. Lutherans invited to joint worship service at 7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Anglican Church, 287 Harrington Street, Arnprior
Sunday	18th	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. First Sunday in Lent
Monday	19 th	Church Council Meeting at St. John's 7:30 p.m.
Sunday	25th	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Second Sunday in Lent



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



Council Meeting – January 15, 2018

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor provided an update on the various worship services during the previous month, as well as several pastoral visits. As Pastor was without a car for several weeks, her ability to conduct visits was minimized in January. However, council recognized that if we want to build our congregation, it will be important for Pastor to continue to visit both existing members of the congregation, as well as potential new (returning) members.
- Pastor's office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, although she will work from home on bad weather days.

Financial Report:

- As a result of the generosity of the congregation and friends of St. John's, we have ended the year with the lowest deficit in a very, very long time (~\$9500). We still have much work to do, and we have to continue being efficient and reducing costs, wherever we can.

Church Home Improvement Plan – Draft prioritization

- Council went through and prioritized the items that were on the home improvement plan for the church. Some of the items that require only human resources, not financial resources, have already been complete, whereas others will be completed over the course of the next several months. The two biggest priorities, with rather large costs, will be repairs to the roof and better drainage around the foundation to prevent water from coming in the basement. Council agreed that we will do the roof relying on the knowledge and expertise of the congregation, but that we will hire a general contractor who has insurance to do the foundation and drainage.

Other Business

- St. John's has been invited to worship with our Anglican brothers and sisters as part of the Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th at 7 pm. There will be multiple announcements to the congregation.
- St. John's is invited to attend Maundy Thursday Service at St. James on March 29, at 5 pm.
- Good Friday Service will be at St. John's on March 30, at 10 am.
- April 1 is Easter.

Sadly, this meeting will be Lois' last meeting as a council member. Council would like to thank Lois for her amazing dedication and service to the members of St. John's over the years.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of church council,

Ryan Zimmerling



\$300.00 matching grant cheque received from Joanne Jehu of FaithLife Financial, donated to Hospice Renfrew. From left is Joanne Jehu, Jeff and Debbie Kargus. Photo courtesy of Lorne Rueckwald

Summary of Annual Meeting Held Jan. 28, 2018

The 2018 Budget was passed as presented. It was noted that St. James has not yet agreed to the proposed allocation for pastoral services so this may present some risk to the overall projected deficit. Special thanks was given to congregation members for their response in minimizing the 2017 deficit (\$9,600) – a significant improvement from the previous year of (\$34,024).

Gwen Steinke pointed out that the Memorium Funds of \$757 in memory of Ed should be used for church improvement such as the roof repairs as this is more in line with what Ed would have wanted.

The 7-point plan for improvement at St. John's was received as information and reviewed. Also, the list of improvement projects for the building was reviewed and discussed. Those in attendance agreed that we should prioritize fixing the roof and damp proofing the basement. Council will continue to look at opportunities to do other things on the list that require minimal investment and would not be impacted by the first two priorities (i.e. some painting, acquisition of kitchen stove, more electrical outlets in Sunday School room).

Recognition Awards

Council presented 3 awards for outstanding leadership and service to the community and our church:

- Enid Blackwell
- Beryl and Keith Richardson
- Gerald and Barbara Formuziewich

New Members of Church Council

The following people were elected to serve on Church council along with Ryan Zimmerling, Jeff Kargus, Beryl Richardson and Randy Zimmerling:

- Joanne Bretzlaff
- Cory Weckwerth
- Elmer Leeck
- David Burkett

A delicious potluck lunch was enjoyed by all following service and preceding the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Zimmerling on behalf of church council



Photo courtesy of Lorne Rueckwald

Enjoy Pancakes with real maple syrup,
Sausages, Home made Baked Beans,
Dessert, Coffee and Tea.



**ANNUAL
PANCAKE SUPPER**

Tuesday Feb. 13th

4:30 to 7 PM

Anglican Church Hall

287 Harrington St.

Arnprior

Adults \$10.00

Children under 12 free



Why go to church?

- Author unknown

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!
If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.
If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"

Retrieved January 31, 2017 from <http://www.inspire21.com/stories/faithstories/WhygotoChurch>



Start collecting now!!

If you happen to be going through your house in the New Year and discover things you no longer need, please put them aside for our **Church Garage Sale in May.**

Talk to the co-ordinators Barbara Formuziewich or Beryl Richardson if you have items.



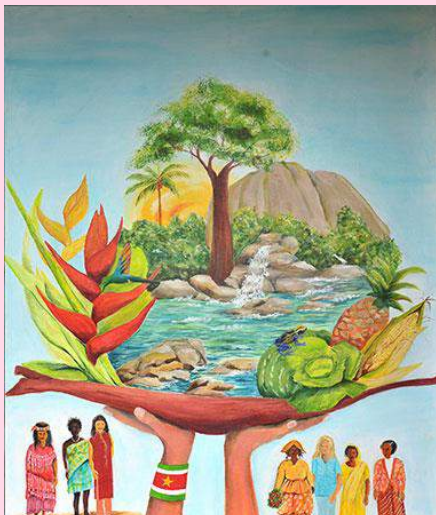
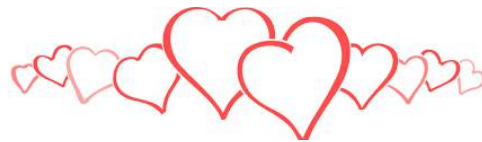
Don't Forget!



February 10th

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

Please consider joining us
for good food
and good conversation!



World Day of Prayer

The 2018 theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good", hosted by Suriname.

Friday, March 2nd

1:30 p.m.

Grace St. Andrew's United Church

269 John Street North, Arnprior

Please join us for informed prayer and prayerful action on preservation of Creation in solidarity with Christians in Suriname. On the first Friday of March each year, Christians of many traditions gather for the World Day of Prayer, a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustices.

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Pastor Norine

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/>

February 7th - **Arnprior Public Library:** Peace Book Club. 'David & Goliath' by Malcolm Gladwell. All welcome, no charge. 6:30 p.m. Info/book: Enid 613 623 7017.

Galilee Centre Events...

February 14th - Valentine Luncheon – New England Clam Chowder, Crusty rolls, Stuffed Pork Loin with Cranberry Orange Glaze, Roasted Potatoes, Honey glazed Carrots, Decadent Chocolate Brownies. Reservations required 613-623-4242 ext. 21. Cost \$18/pp. Arrive anytime between 11:30 and 12:00

February 14th - Romantic Dinner for Two – 3 Course meal, live music, wine and special treats \$110 per couple, Dinner served at 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30) Register at 613-623-4242 ext.21

February 22nd – 25th – Lenten Centering Prayer – Silent Retreat

February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th – Wonder will Guide Us: Conversations on Faith in an Unfinished Universe



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



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2018

SUNDAY	USHERS	READING	COFFEE/SOCIAL	COUNTERS
Feb. 4 th	Lynn Rosien and Gerry Formuziewich	Lynn Rosien	Barb and Gerry Formuziewich	Lynn Rosien and Gerry Formuziewich
Feb. 11 th	Lynn Rosien and Gerry Formuziewich	Lynn Rosien	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Lynn Rosien and Gerry Formuziewich
Feb. 18 th	Lynn Rosien and Gerry Formuziewich	Lynn Rosien	Marion and Elmer Leeck	Lynn Rosien and Gerry Formuziewich
Feb. 25 th	Lynn Rosien and Gerry Formuziewich	Lynn Rosien	Beryl and Keith Richardson	Lynn Rosien and Gerry Formuziewich

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

Note: Volunteers are 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>