

The Mustard Seed

May 2016

The Monthly Newsletter of

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church*

*47 McLachlin Street, Amprior,
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

From the Pastors Desk,

May 1 2016

"for the times they are a changing" we recognize this phrase by the American poet and composer Bob Dylan. It is likely familiar to most of you as a social commentary on the world of the 1960s. I think it is a short and sweet line about the way things are in our churches today also.

The story of Paul and Cornelius in Acts 11:11-18 (sermon of April 24) takes place as the young church hovers at a tipping point. Are they going to continue to worship and live in established ways – or are they going to do something different, still acknowledging their religious roots but head in a new direction.

Theirs is a story of crisis. They will no longer be able to count on former traditions without weighing their value and meaning for the new community of faith. The established way of doing things will be open for debate. There is a lot at stake. Instead of expecting new believers to come to them they will have to go where the gospel is needed. God was found to be present everywhere. There was no longer any insider or outsider.

I think we face a similar tipping point today in the church. The decline of membership in the mainline denominations is a familiar concern.

Many of us gather in places of worship on Sunday mornings, confronted by the real concerns about how to continue to keep our building, our pastor, and support the mission and ministries that we have been invested in. Many of our congregations are discovering new ways to be the church. Many are closing their doors as they are merge, move, or creating a new way to be the church. We can no longer assume that if we build it they will come. So I wonder what God has to say to us today as we consider the lesson of Peter and Cornelius.

We ask the question - Who we are? Where is God at work in the world? How do we recognize God's activity? We have the same questions about the changes in our churches that Peter had also. We hope and pray that God will open our eyes to see new ways of being HIS body, alive in mission and ministry to HIS world. Make us instruments of your love o Lord.

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 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/>

May Event Calendar

Sunday	1st	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Baptism of Bo Mullen (Obst Family)
Wednesday	4 th	Worship at The Villa at 10:30 a.m. Pastor at music and worship meeting at St. James Renfrew 4:00 p.m.
Sunday	8th	Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Mother's Day
Wednesday	11 th	Pastor attends council meeting for St. James Renfrew 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	12 th	Ottawa Valley Lutheran Pastors Meeting at Bonnechere 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Sunday	15th	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Finger Food Potluck immediately following service and ELFEC Workshop with Executive Director Jeff Pym
Monday	16 th	Church Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	18 th	Worship at The Grove 11:00 a.m. Pastor working at St. James Renfrew in the afternoon
Sunday	22nd	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	25 th	Pastor working at St. James Renfrew in the afternoon
Sunday	29th	Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.



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 the details of her monthly report. With Easter coming earlier this year, there were more services and service preparations in March as a result of Lenten activities.
- ✚ In addition to regular council meetings at both St. James and St. John's Pr. Norine attended the local Ministerial meeting and Ottawa Valley Ministerial Meeting and spent one week at Eastern Synod Council.
- ✚ St James scheduled a planned "meet and greet" to give all members an opportunity to meet Pastor Norine.
- ✚ A discussion followed on Pastor's vacation and corresponding coverage for Sunday services as well as a substitute for Synod convention Sunday. Details will follow but our approach will be:
 - Synod Sunday – Jeff and Randy will lead service
 - Summer vacation period – attempts will be made to get clergy substitute for 1 Sunday and for the remainder we will contact St. James and see if they are willing to combine services on an alternating basis using lay leadership.

Financial Report:

- Current offerings are up 52% on a year-to-date basis vs. last year.
- Our Lenten offerings will be donated towards the CLWR (almost \$500) and Food bank \$250.
- St. James contribution for Pastor related costs = \$4,005 year- to-date as of March 31st.
- Total expenses are up \$3,853 and include disbursement of the Synod grant to the Food bank and our donations totaling \$3,685.
- Our deficit on a year-to-date basis has been reduced by over \$5,000 as a result of :
 - increased current giving and increased regular Sunday attendance
 - earlier Easter and Lenten services vs. last yearWe hope and pray that this trend continues.
- Our balance sheet shows \$97,327 in the bank and we are resubmitting the HST claim for \$1000.
- Palms- We will be working with St. James to investigate reducing our costs for next year.

Outreach:

- "The Big Give" – BBQ – This year our community barbecue will be held on Sat. June 4th from 11:30 to 1:30. It is planned to be part of the town's efforts to support activities for The Big Give including a flea market at the Baptist Church parking lot. More details will be announced shortly. Donations are welcomed and volunteers are needed. The Anglican Church will be cosponsoring this event.
- Special thanks to Ryan and Julie Zimmerling for hosting our winter fun day at their farm. Both young and not so young, enjoyed the outdoor fun and fellowship. Also, we appreciate Ryan and Julie's leadership in getting our Sunday School off the ground this year.
- Plans are in the works for Canada day celebration at the Zimmerling farm with a family focus again. Details will be announced shortly.

Property Maintenance:

- Grass cutting- This year we will be using volunteers to do the weekly grass cutting.
- Sound System improvements- We have already adjusted the volume/output of sound by moving the speakers forward in the balcony and recalibrating the sound system. Further planned improvements we are working on include:
 - purchase of a fixed microphone for the pulpit
 - purchase of a power adaptor for the amplifier to accommodate another microphone

Thank you to all the congregation members for their continued financial support and their participation in volunteer efforts for all of the regular Sunday activities in support of worship and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of church council,

Randy Zimmerling



*A special "Thank You" to everyone who donated towards
the Easter Lilies for the church.*

Beryl



**Canadian Lutheran
World Relief**

Lenten Offerings

This year our congregation decided that the CLWR portion of the Lenten offerings would go towards flocks of chickens and seeds. We will donate \$250 to provide five families with flocks of 24 chickens each and another \$250 to provide seeds for ten families.

In addition, a \$250 donation will be made to the Arnprior Food bank.

Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!



Sunday, May 15th - Immediately following service – Finger Food Potluck and ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada) workshop with Executive Director Jeff Pym. St. James members are invited to attend.

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.



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 MAY 2016

SUNDAY	USHERS	READING	COFFEE/SOCIAL	COUNTERS
May 1 st	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Randy/Cathy Zimmerling	Joanne and Lorne Bretzlaff	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff
May 8 th	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Maureen Rueckwald	Barb and Gerry Formuziewich	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff
May 15 th	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Jeff/Debbie Kargus	Finger Food Potluck	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff
May 22 nd	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Ryan/Zach Zimmerling	Enid Blackwell	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff
May 29 th	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Joy Statham	Volunteer Needed	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff

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>