

# The Mustard Seed

November 2017

*The Monthly Newsletter of*  
**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

47 McLachlin Street, Arnprior,  
Ontario K7S 2Z1

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**Pastor:**

**Norine Gullons**

Church Office: 623-4562

*Pastor's office hours:*  
*Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-Noon*

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**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



October 23, 2017

Dear members and friends of St. John's,

I have been asked by Church Council to write to you asking for your help in reducing a major deficit in our operating fund by year-end. Significantly reducing this debt will require extra effort from our whole congregation from now until December 31.

As you are able, please consider either an increase

in your regular offerings or a special gift to St. John's before Dec. 31, 2017 *directed/marked to our deficit fund.*

Our congregation is richly blessed by everyone's participation. We are blessed to be in shared ministry with St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church in Renfrew. We are healthy and alive and very giving and generous! Our *average* worship attendance is 38. We have a small Sunday School. Our outreach efforts have been very much appreciated. In our Mission for Others we support the Arnprior Food Bank, the Grove Post Card Campaign, Hospice Renfrew, the Big Give, Christmas Baskets, Canadian Food Grains Bank, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre. We are involved in our local community and the global world around us!

Whenever there has been an "in house" need we fill it! For example, our recent September roofing expenses have been covered by gracious contributors of time, talent, resources and finances.

At our October Church Council meeting, our treasurer reported a deficit of - \$24,000. Our Synod Benevolence is behind by \$900.

Church Council has made some immediate recommendations:

- Communicate our financial need to the congregation. (this letter and information sharing at worship on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>)
- No shared services with St. James for the rest of 2017
- Eliminate unnecessary spending- sticking to essential expenses
- Design a major fundraiser for St. John's

*Our faith community is solely funded by what comes in on the offering plate. When you designate where your money is to go - it goes there. When we receive grant money from the Eastern Synod, it is forwarded to the organization that we have requested to assist (i.e. the Arnprior Food Bank). When you are away from our church, we hope that when you return that you are able to make up those missed Sunday contributions to St. John's.*

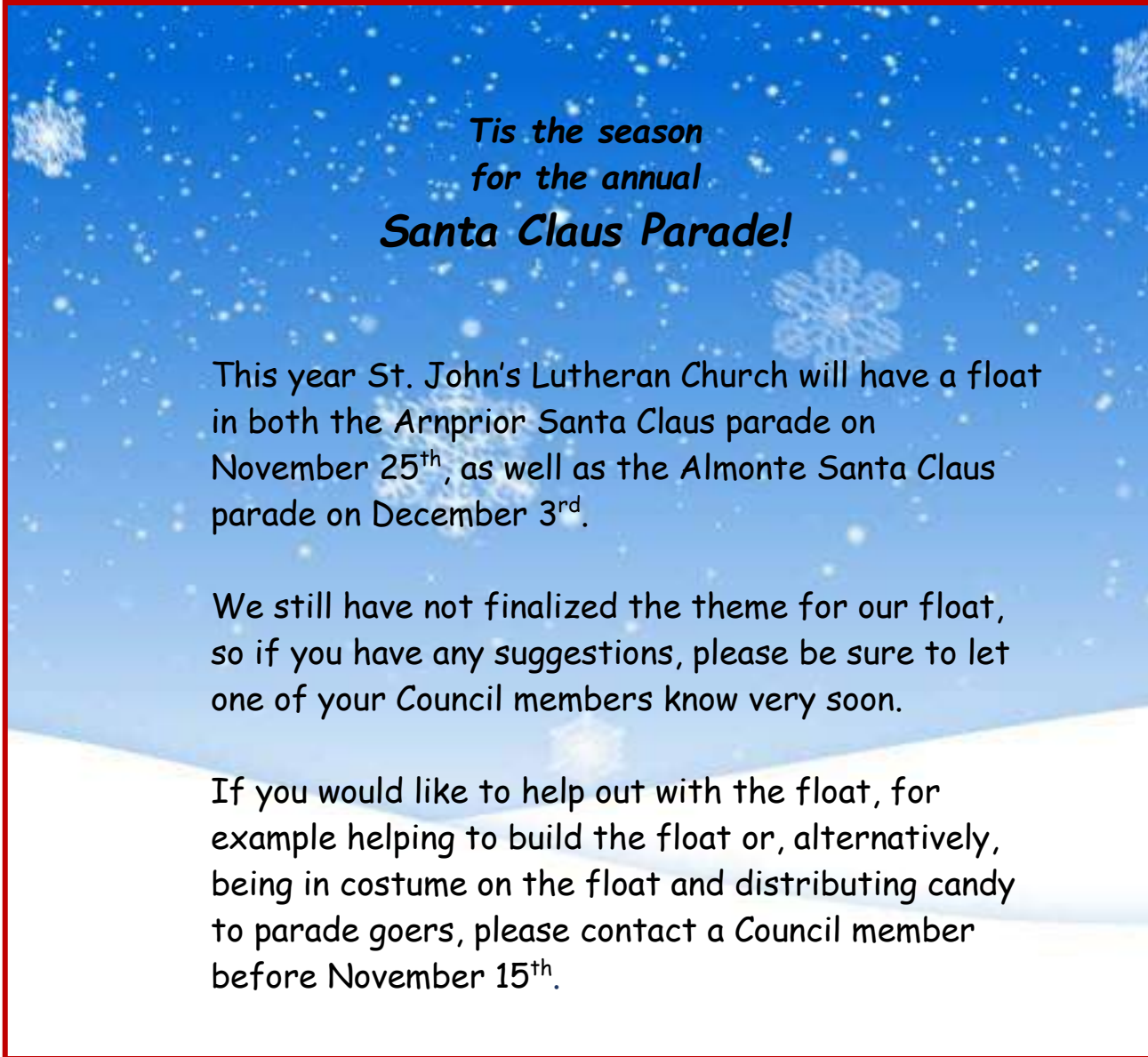
**Together we can do this! Every contribution helps!** It is time now to make our internal responsibilities a priority. We all want to give in ways that are pleasing to God, life-giving to others, and consistent with our sense of personal integrity. How each one of us responds is connected to our own personal financial situation. It is also a question of where in our hearts we place the needs of our faith community. Church council knows that many members are on a fixed income. We hope that there are those who are able

to respond to this appeal, adding to the financial support they already provide. **Together we can strengthen our various ministries and mission!**

My prayer is that St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – you the people – may continue to grow in the grace we have already received in such abundance. Please consider this request prayerfully. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,            Rev. Norine Gullons

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*Tis the season  
for the annual  
**Santa Claus Parade!***

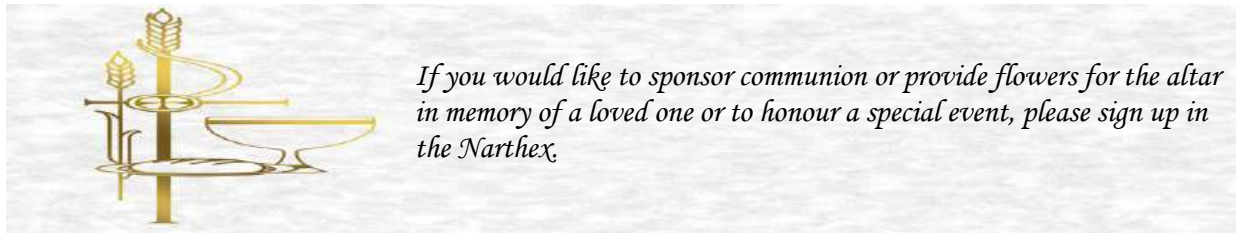
This year St. John's Lutheran Church will have a float in both the Arnprior Santa Claus parade on November 25<sup>th</sup>, as well as the Almonte Santa Claus parade on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We still have not finalized the theme for our float, so if you have any suggestions, please be sure to let one of your Council members know very soon.

If you would like to help out with the float, for example helping to build the float or, alternatively, being in costume on the float and distributing candy to parade goers, please contact a Council member before November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## *November Event Calendar*

Wednesday-Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor attends Eastern Synod Council meetings in Kitchener
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b>
Monday-Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pastors Retreat at Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre
Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Lutheran/Anglican Pastors Meeting 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. St. Peters, Alice
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup>	 <b>Remembrance Day</b>  Men's Breakfast at Jim's Restaurant 8:30 a.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Worship service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> Christmas Shoeboxes Due
Monday-Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Norine on holidays
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.</b>
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Church Council budget meeting at Rosien's in Braeside 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bishop+ Pryse meets with area Lutheran clergy in Pembroke
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Arnprior Santa Claus Parade – watch for St. John's float
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Christ the King Sunday</b>



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

## October Church Council Report

### Pastor's Report:

- Pastor provided an update on the various worship services and meetings she attended during the previous month, as well as numerous pastoral care events. Planned events, such as the Commemoration of the Reformation and Eastern Synod, were also discussed.

### Finance Report

- Despite lower than anticipated attendance, we continue to achieve relatively significant cost-savings related to expenses.
- Balance sheet shows \$45,611 in cash. Given our deficit, we will deplete this in less than 2 years if nothing changes. As a result, we now need to determine if there are ways we can defer or offset existing expenses or increase contributions from the congregation or through some other means (e.g., a fund-raiser).

### Other Reports

#### Property

- We will need to purchase a new hose and sweeper for the vacuum, which will probably cost around \$500.
- Members of the congregation have been volunteering to help with church cleaning while our custodial staff recovers from an injury. Those members of the congregation who can volunteer on a regular basis (i.e., a couple of hours each week) are encouraged to talk to a council member.
- The floor in the basement downstairs is in disrepair and at least a portion of it will need to be ripped up and then a decision will be made what to do (replace the flooring or leave as concrete). Will discuss and decide at next Council meeting.

#### Other Business

- We will continue to use recorded music, thanks to a professional pianist, for many of Sunday Services – the quality and tempo are excellent.
- St. John's has registered to enter a float in the Arnprior Santa Claus parade on November 25, as well as the Almonte Santa Claus parade on December 3 and anyone with ideas for the float, or who wishes to participate in the construction of the float or be on the float should contact a member of Council.
- Spaghetti supper in support of Hospice Renfrew is planned for Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> The congregation is asked to bring desserts.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of church council,  
Ryan Zimmerling





## Spaghetti Supper in Support of Hospice Renfrew

# THANK YOU!

Our annual spaghetti supper fund raiser for Hospice Renfrew raised approximately \$1,140 (net of our costs) and will qualify for a grant from FaithLife Financial which will be presented at a later date. Many thanks to all of those who worked so hard in the kitchen, serving up an estimated 100+ diners. Also, thanks to all those who helped create the many scrumptious desserts that filled the dessert table. Ideas are already floating to make next year's event even better.



**Samaritan's Purse**  
**OPERATION Christmas Child**

**2017 CANADIAN SHOEBOX DESTINATIONS**

**CENTRAL AMERICA**  
Costa Rica  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Haiti  
Nicaragua

**AFRICA**  
Gambia  
Guinea  
Guinea Bissau  
Ivory Coast  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone

**SOUTH AMERICA**  
Chile

**EUROPE**  
Ukraine

**10 COUNTRIES DELIVER SHOEBOXES TO OVER 100 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE**

To learn how you can pack a shoebox for a child overseas, visit [SamaritansPurse.ca/occ](http://SamaritansPurse.ca/occ)

## Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are due back to the church on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

What to pack in a shoebox?

- Toys, school supplies, non-liquid hygiene items, clothing, accessories or craft items

Check the Operation Christmas Child pamphlet for more ideas on what to include and what not to include.



*Just a reminder that the Christmas trees that go at the front of the church had to be discarded. Please consider making a donation towards the purchase of two new trees for the front of our church.*

*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](mailto:randyzimmerling@hotmail.com) or call 613-623-9733.



**Don't Forget!**



November 11<sup>th</sup>

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

Please consider joining us for good food and good conversation!



*In case you missed it...*

*Pastor Fred and Grace Haak joined us for service October 15<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Haak shared his gift of music on the organ.*

*Thank you Pastor Haak!*



*Eternity for Today*

The October, November, December issue is now available in the Narthex!



## *Galilee Centre presents...*



Plan to hold your Company Christmas Get Together or Family Gathering at the Galilee Centre this holiday season. Groups of 10 or more are welcome to have a delicious home cooked meal with all the trimmings (buffet \$27/pp or served \$33/pp) in our historic dining room. Call 613-623-4242 ext. 21 or email [infor@galileecentre.com](mailto:infor@galileecentre.com) for more information.

### **Also, November 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### ***How to Live with a Prickly Porcupine - Letting the Difficult Person Heal Us***

Each of us often rub shoulders with a porcupine, a difficult person we wish lived in Antarctica: the pessimist who believes every silver lining has a cloud, the passive aggressive (the dog who licks your hand before biting it), the depressive who depresses us, and the others that we thank God we are not married to. We will explore the 2 hands that heal us: the right hand that sets boundaries so we can care for ourselves and find inner peace and the left hand that reaches out to create peace without becoming another prickly porcupine that blames or tries to fix another. Even if the difficult person never changes, that person becomes a source of new life and healing for us.



**Arnprior Public Library**

November 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

Display case  
By  
Canadian Peace Initiative

Opportunity to answer the  
question:

“What does peace mean to  
you?”

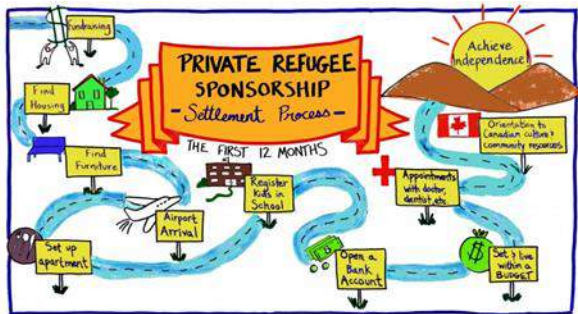
***Remembrance Day***

***Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>***



**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/>



Wed., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>  
 TVO Premier documentary  
*Sponsorland*  
 about  
 private Syrian family sponsorship based  
 out of Prince Edward County



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



**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2017**

SUNDAY	USHERS	READING	COFFEE/SOCIAL	COUNTERS
Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Debbie/Jeff Kargus	Barb and Gerald Formuziewich	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff
Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Mark Boese	Alison and Dave Burkett	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff
Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Cathy/Randy Zimmerling	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff
Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff	Maureen Rueckwald	Maureen and Lorne Rueckwald	Mel and Marion Bretzlaff

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