

The Mustard Seed

December 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

Dave Burkett 618-5729

Joanne Bretzlaff 623-5729

Cory Weckworth 793-3701

Elmer Leek 623-4306



“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 members and friends of St John's,

As we approach the season of Advent and wait expectantly for Christmas, I bring greetings from our church in the name of Jesus Christ.

The people of St. John's strive to be a church in mission for others. Perhaps people think of the traditional idea of “mission” as places far away with people that are often very different from us and that are in need of assistance. St. John's does support CLWR – Canadian Lutheran World Relief in their efforts around the world.

We also support outreach right here for our community. The snack pack program at our local foodbank is assisted by us. A small and successful summer Vacation Children's week was held and our "neighborhood" barbeque this year was in September. Parishioners and friends have hiked for Hospice; picked up garbage from ditches during the "Big Give"; and held our first garage sale this spring. **Sat. Dec. 8th will be our First Christmas Bazaar (9-1)**. Our Sunday School is active and the children recently participated in the Santa Claus parade on our church float. They also played a major part of our Lutherlyn Camp Sunday. Some members have also volunteered their time and talents for tornado relief. Everyone offers their time and talents for the sake of our faith community, and we are blessed by everyone's participation!

Having our faith community function well requires financial resources. That financial ministry belongs to each one of us. By the end of the year ***we will have reached our benevolence goal to the Eastern Synod of \$3850. We are reporting an operating deficit as of the end of October is - \$14,000.*** We expect an improvement as a result of the Christmas Bazaar and our December offerings. Please consider Christmas as a time traditionally to present a special financial gift to your church.

Church council and I give thanks for your financial contributions which supports the church, and our outreach projects. Giving is not just a matter of finances. Giving is a returning to God with thanks for the many blessings we can each name in our own lives. It is a spiritual matter. We thank God for His grace, and His tender love and mercy in our lives.

May God bless you and may you be a blessing to others this Advent and Christmas Season.

Sincerely, in Christ, Pastor Norine +



*Installation of
Rev. Leena Jensen
October, 2018*

Photo submitted by Pastor Noreen

December Event Calendar

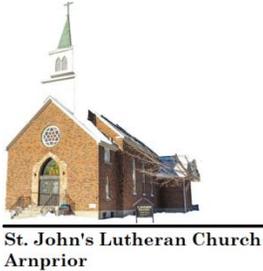
Sunday	2nd	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Advent I
Tuesday	4 th	Special Church Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	8 th	St. John's Christmas Bazaar 9:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Sunday	9th	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Advent II
Saturday	15 th	Men's Breakfast at Jim's Restaurant – 8:30 a.m.
Sunday	16th	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Advent III
Monday	17 th	Church Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday	23rd	Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Advent IV
Monday	24th	Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	30th	Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
Sunday	January 6th	Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.



Our Angel Tree in Support of The Arnprior & District Food Bank

We are hoping for cash donations to purchase chickens. If you would like to donate any amount toward the Arnprior Food Bank Christmas Baskets, please write "Chickens" on your offering envelope and ensure the \$\$ amount is noted and included in the "Total" column.





Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2018

Pastor Norine opened with devotions and prayer.

The minutes from the October 15, 2018 meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor presented her activity report.
- Pastor outlined two Ottawa area meetings that were coming up:
 - Saturday, November 24, 2018, 10:00am – 1:00pm at St. James Renfrew. The goal of the meeting is to discuss the establishment of an Area Ministry group.
 - Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 2:30pm, at St. Timothy's Pembroke. The Bishop's Annual Meeting.
- Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:30 pm on December 24, 2018.



Financial Report:

- Profit & Losses versus what was budgeted was reviewed. Offerings are up \$3900 over budget, whereas expenses are \$1250 below budget. However, our deficit is \$14,000.
- Our attendance continues to be slightly down compared to last year.
- Council decided that it would meet on December 4, 2018 at 7:30 to strategize and formulate a plan moving forward to help address the financial situation.
- Bazaar and Room Rental will increase revenue opportunities for the remainder of the year.

Facility Rental

- The facility rental brochure that had been developed by members of the marketing team and asked Council to provide comments before the end of the week. Specific issues associated with access to the church were discussed.
- There is a need to on a Facility Co-ordinator who would have duties of:
 - i) Creating the contract for the Renter
 - ii) Organizing volunteers for setup (tables and chairs) and coffee, mugs etc as required.
 - iii) Notifying cleaning with respect to timing of meeting (to have cleaning done after rental as necessary/if possible).
 - iv) Notifying billing
 - v) Recruiting close-by volunteers for open and closing
- It was not decided who we could approach to do this – this should be done next meeting.
- In the meantime, there has been interest by a local group to rent the lounge up to three times per week for the winter months. Council endorsed moving forward with discussions with this possible renter.

Property Report:

- Randy presented the Property Report outlining the tremendous amount of labour contributions from the congregation.
- Still working on a new chairperson for property committee.

Altar Guild Report:

- The timing of putting up the Christmas decorations (trees, poinsettias, candles) was discussed – the second Sunday in December was chosen.

Outreach/Community Report:

- Jeff reported that we are getting another \$1000 grant for the Food Bank.
- For the Food Bank, we will be purchasing free-range chickens this year and will have an angel tree up in December for those who wish to contribute.
- Tornado Relief: Randy attended a meeting where the devastation in Dunrobin was discussed in the context of how local congregations could support those in need.
- Ryan provided an update on the float that will be entered into the Arnprior Santa Claus parade and requested some assistance on a few technological/logistical items. For various reasons, it was decided not to participate in the Almonte Christmas Parade this year, but we will look at doing so next year.

Marketing Report:

- Bazaar signs are up all over Arnprior and posts have been made on social media. There will be a committee meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2018. Sign-up sheets can be found in the basement.

Council and Committee Membership:

- Members of the congregation are asked to consider leadership positions on the various committees, as well as on council. If members of the congregation have any questions, they can ask a council member.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of church council,

Ryan Zimmerling



Photo courtesy of Rob Elliot



St. John's Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 8th
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please bring donations to church according to the following schedule:

- Tuesday, Dec. 4 - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 7 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 7 – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 - Furniture should be brought in either Friday morning or evening if at all possible; we have a rental group in the Lounge Thursday evening.
 - Baking should be brought in Friday evening so it's fresh.
- If you're unable to make the above times, bring items in this Sunday, Dec 1 and we'll stage things in the Boardroom (the old Sunday School Room)

Volunteers will be at the church to direct you where to leave your items.

Bring your family and friends to check out the great deals!

- ❖ Delicious baking & preserves
- ❖ Furniture, household décor, etc.
- ❖ Kids toys & clothing
- ❖ Crafts, jewelry & purses
- ❖ Treasure area
- ❖ Silent Auction
- ❖ Draws for Gift Baskets
- ❖ Café (homemade soup, muffins, coffee/ tea)



All proceeds go to the operating fund of St. John's



Thank you for your support!

*Together we filled and shipped
14 shoeboxes!*

Don't Forget!



December 15th

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

Please consider joining us
for good food
and good conversation!

Important Dates...

Dec. 8th – St. John's Christmas Bazaar

Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service – 5:30 p.m.



*I Said a Christmas Prayer For You
because the seasons near,
I didn't ask for riches
but for gifts so much more dear.
I asked for joyful gatherings
with your family all around,
and for carols to inspire you
with their old familiar sound.
I asked for quiet moments
in your heart on Christmas morn,
For a special time to celebrate
the Saviour who was born...*



Vacation Bible School Report – Submitted by Jessica Elliot

The last week of July, the Church basement's tables and chairs were pushed to the side to make room for running. The walls were adorned with caution tape, black footprints, and magnifying glasses, and furniture boxes were turned into "spy headquarters" as we prepared for St. John's vacation bible camp. The congregation generously donated supplies that helped bring the week's "Secret Agents of Truth" theme to life. (Donated yarn strung between the pews became a "laser" obstacle course to navigate, as an example 😊).

Each morning campers discussed a daily theme (or "secret password") relating to discovering the truth about God's Love, and explored it further through fun action songs, spy themed crafts, indoor and outdoor games, secret missions, and acts of secret service (including baking and delivering cookies to those in the neighbourhood surrounding the church). A good number of children attended—6 from our congregation and another 6 from the neighbourhood and community (for a total of 12). Because so many people were able to generously donate their time, we had a good camper to leader ratio. There were always at least 4 adults present as well as a grade nine student. Additionally, each day a different volunteer kindly prepared and served delicious snacks for everyone. It was fun to see that the kids worked well together, helped one another, and really had a great time. They got to celebrate together at the end of the week with a BBQ where they sang the songs they had learned for their families. Thanks to everyone's help, hard work, time, and generosity, we were able to provide a fun, safe, and affordable summer program in a positive environment, for kids that may not have participated in a camp otherwise.



Postings in the Narthex

- **Eastern Synod Lutheran Monthly Newsletter** (also online: <http://www.easternsynod.org/>)
- **Upcoming events at Galilee Centre** – website at <http://www.galileecentre.com/programs/>
 - Toonie Talk for Seniors - Wednesday, Dec. 5th 8 a.m.;
 - Gracernote Concert - Friday, Dec. 7th, 8 p.m.;
 - Family Christmas Day – Saturday, Dec. 8th, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.;
 - Taize service -Sunday, Dec. 16th, 7-7:45p.m.;
 - Solstice Run/Walk – Thursday, Dec. 20th, 6 p.m.
- **Upcoming events at Arnprior Library** - Wed. Dec. 5th, 6:30, Peace Book Club



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



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	USHERS	READING	COFFEE/SOCIAL	COUNTERS
Dec. 2 nd	Beryl and Keith Richardson	Jeff or Deb Kargus	Joanne and Lorne Bretzlaff	Beryl and Keith Richardson
Dec. 9 th	Beryl and Keith Richardson	Andy Kalnins	Marion and Elmer Leeck	Beryl and Keith Richardson
Dec. 16 th	Beryl and Keith Richardson	Cathy or Randy Zimmerling	Alison and Dave Burkett	Beryl and Keith Richardson
Dec. 23 rd	Beryl and Keith Richardson	Mark Boese	Maureen and Lorne Rueckwald	Beryl and Keith Richardson
Dec. 24th Christmas Eve	Beryl and Keith Richardson	Maureen R. Ryan/Zach Z. Andy K.	** No Social **	Beryl and Keith Richardson
Dec. 30 th	Beryl and Keith Richardson	Joy Statham	Marion and Mel Bretzlaff	Beryl and Keith Richardson
Jan. 6 th		Joanne Bretzlaff	Volunteer Needed	

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-Arnprior/302930049856065>