

**The
Mustard Seed**
February 2021
The Monthly Newsletter
of
*St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

47 McLachlin St. S., Arnprior
Ontario K7S 2Z1

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Andy Kalnins

Pastor's Message

Dear faith family and friends,

It is a beautiful sunny day and I can even hear the chickadees singing outside. A cardinal visited my birdfeeder this morning, and I treat that visit as a herald that the long month of January is almost over.

Many situations in our lives are very different this year. The recent provincial health lockdown has provoked feelings of loneliness, isolation and fearfulness in some people. Our church ministries have had to change. The March 5th annual Women's World Day of Prayer Service in Arnprior has been cancelled. **St. John's Lutheran Church will hold their Annual General Meeting at 10a.m. on Sun. Feb. 14th by ZOOM call. There are arrangements being made for those who do not have internet to be able to participate.** (See this newsletter.)

February ushers us into the Lenten season. Tuesday, February 16 is Shrove Tuesday, so I hope you will enjoy having pancakes at home this year. **We are all invited to watch the livestreaming of the Wed. Feb. 17 - 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service from our Bishop Michael Pryse and Synod Staff in Kitchener.**

The Lenten season offers us a time to take a different personal spiritual approach as we move forward to **EASTER on April 4.** 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.*" We have choices about which road to take.

Perhaps we can decrease our expectations and our busyness, and slow our lives down a bit. We can decrease our personal stress, and practice self-care and care for our families, friends and strangers. Meaningful conversations can happen when you support others and encourage them to not lose heart. Hope is found in the promises that God has given to us.

We continue to take more time to pray, meditate on God's words, and write in our journals of gratefulness. By adding spiritual practices to our Lenten journey we respond to God's grace in our lives. We do so 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

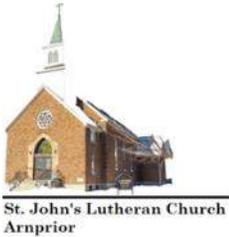
February Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT
Sunday Feb 7th	Fifth Sunday In Epiphany Pre-recorded Service of Word & Prayer available on YouTube
Sunday Feb 14th	Transfiguration of Our Lord YouTube service of Holy Communion. 10:00a.m. St. John's Annual General Meeting will take place via ZOOM with options for those who do not have internet service. See further information in this newsletter.
Tuesday Feb 16th	SHROVE TUESDAY enjoy pancakes at home.
Ash Wednesday February 17th	6:30pm Bishop Michael and our Synod Assistants invite us to gather for a Synod-wide Livestreamed Worship Service. This service will also be available in print form. We will issue the print and link resources to you.
Sunday Feb 21st	First Sunday in Lent - YouTube Service of Word & Prayer
Monday Feb 22nd	FEB 22 Church Council meet at 7pm via ZOOM call.
Sunday Feb 28th	Second Sunday in Lent YouTube Service of Word & Prayer

Out of the mouths of babes. . . .

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



Council Meeting Minutes

January 18th 2021

Attendance (via ZOOM)

Randy Zimmerling
Cory Weckwerth
Alison Burkett

David Burkett
Enid Blackwell

Pr. Norine
Jeff Kargus

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 and Cory opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer.
2. In Camera discussion.
3. Roundtable check-in
4. **Previous Minutes:** Cory moved that the Dec 14th, 2020, minutes be approved as circulated, Randy seconded. CARRIED
5. **Pastor's report:** Pastor presented her report.
6. **Budget 2021:** Alison presented the proposed 2021 budget. Randy moved that we accept the 2021 proposed budget (as amended), seconded by Cory, CARRIED. To be presented for approval at the AGM.
7. **Finance:** Alison presented the year-end finances – income is over budget, and expenses are below budget. We ended the year with a surplus of \$3027. The year-end finances go to the Review Committee and then to the AGM.
8. **Communications:** Enid presented about activity on facebook and the stats of 40 followers and 35 likes.
9. **Technology:** Dave: presented viewership over the year (average of 43). Accent lighting has been acquired.
10. **Outreach:** Jeff presented a report on the various outreach programs. More donated to the Food Bank this year compared to last. Donations for 2020 were:

Food Bank: 43 chickens (\$860) and \$1917.50 cash	The Food Bank also received a Synod Grant of \$1000 for the children's Snack Pak program.
CLWR: \$220	Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes
Camp Lutherlyn: \$830	The Big Give: Division St. Cleanup

11. **Property Update:** The organ was tuned. Please remember to turn off lights as you leave – check that the door latches as you leave.
12. **Stay-at-home Proposal** discussed. Building checks Gerald – Mon -Sat. Keith & Beryl Wed. Dave on Thurs. Organ humidity filled Mon, Thurs, Sat.
13. **Planning for the AGM:** Feb 14th at 10:00am –It will be an all virtual meeting via Zoom with the capability to phone in for people without internet. Pre-registration will be required. Enid, Alison, Andy and Dave will work on process and logistics. Trial run for people who wish to test Zoom is being arranged.

NEXT MEETINGS: Council: AGM Feb 14th - Council Feb 22nd.

Adjournment: 9:50





Marion and Bill Koops son-in-law Adrian Cloutier has died. Adrian and Debbie live in Cobden. Their son Adam lives in Arnprior, and daughter Amanda lives in Sarnia.

No arrangements are being made at this time.

Please keep the Koops/Cloutier family in your prayers.

Sincerely, Pastor Norine

PRAYER LIST



We normally have this list on our Sunday bulletin. Please pray for these people in your daily prayer:



From both congregations: Chris & Kathy, Ed & Rosemary, Lucas and family, Fred, Gladys, Joe & Shelley, and Doug.

Friends of the Parish: Annie, Joan, Leslie, Ron K., Tere B., Lorraine, Barb L., Jodie, Diane D. & family, Claudette, and Gilbert, Mary, Lucille, and Brenda.

We pray for all those who are living in nursing homes, that they may be protected and properly cared for.

Bless you for believing in the power of prayers. If you wish to add a name to this list, please contact Pastor Norine.

ASTRONOMY CORNER with Andy Kalnins

February Stars

Orion the Hunter is currently staring down at us, high in the south, as soon as it gets dark. To see a bear in Ursa Major, or to make out a goat Capricorn requires a more vivid imagination than I possess, but Orion is easier. The four corner stars certainly could be the edges of a powerful body, and the stars that make up the belt, look like, well a belt.

The author of the Book of Job refers to Orion by name at least twice, Orion appeared in the Odyssey, the Egyptians may have used the belt to align the pyramids, and the Ojibwa in North America saw Orion as the embodiment of winter.

It is worthwhile bundling up one evening and having a good look before the Hunter disappears for the season.

Betelgeuse - This red tinged star is what astronomers call a Red Giant. If it suddenly replaced the sun, the expanse would envelop the Earth, Mars, the Asteroids, and even possibly Jupiter, When the light you are seeing today left Betelgeuse. Edward IV was King of England

Bellatrix - This Blue Giant is a kid; 250 million years old (our sun is 4.6 billion years old). And it is a big kid, having a mass of over eight times that of the sun, When the light you are seeing today left Bellatrix. George III was King of England

Rigel - Rigel is a Super Blue Giant and a baby at 8 million years old, but hit a very early growth spurt as it is 17 times the mass of the sun and in radius almost 80 times more expansive than the sun. When the light you are seeing today left Bellatrix Henry III was King of England

Belt - Going from east to west the belt stars are Alnitak (English King was maybe Ecgberht when the light left), Alnilam (Jesus was sailing in the Sea of Galilee when the light left), and Mintaka (Charlemagne was Roman Emperor when the light left). These stars are visible from the entire planet which made them ideal navigational aids.

Orion's Sword

Stars like us are born, have a life, and die. Some of us spend our early years in a nursery and the fuzzy patch in the middle of Orion's Sword is a star nursery. The light there left 1400 years ago. The tiny fuzzy patch is thought to be 24 light years across. Astronomers estimate that there are over 700 stars in this nursery; you would not want to be there at feeding time!

So take a moment to look at Orion the Hunter. There are plenty of resources on the internet to learn more about this constellation.



POETRY CORNER

May you wake with a sense of play,
 An exultation of the possible.
 May you rest without guilt,
 Satisfied at the end of a day well done.
 May all the rough edges be smoothed,
 If to smooth is to heal,
 And the edges be left rough,
 When the unpolished is more true
 And infinitely more interesting.
 May you wear your years like a well-tailored
 coat
 Or a brave sassy scarf. . .

...May the friendships you've sown
 Grown tall as summer corn.
 And the things you've left behind,
 Rest quietly in the unchangeable past.
 May you embrace this day,
 Not just as any old day,
 But as this day.
 Your day.
 Held in trust
 By you,
 In a singular place,
 Called now.

from 'Blessing' by Carrie Newcomer



February 2021



BIRTHDAYS

- Feb 1—Rick Frivalt**
- Feb 2—Sawyer Elliot**
- Feb 3—Debbie Witt**
- Feb 10—Lucas Roberts**
- Feb 11—Debbie Kargus**
- Feb 13—Helen Neuman**
- Feb 14—Ryan Kargus**
- Feb 21—Debbie Steinke**
- Feb 26—Julie Zimmerling**
- Feb 29—Enid Blackwell**

ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb 6—Shane & Kayla Zimmerling**
- Feb 26—Marion & Bill Koops**



Annual General Meeting

Documentation

Thank you! You prepared and sent in reports in a very timely fashion for our February 14 Annual Meeting. This has been very helpful. Our AGM documentation package will soon be ready. You will **receive it in one of 3 ways** by the end of the first week of February:

1. Those without internet: **hand delivered**, similarly to delivery of weekly service scripts.
2. Those with internet and a printer: **by email** from Dave Burkett. You can then print it. Approximately 20 pp. single sided.
3. Those with internet but unable to easily print: **curbside pickup**, at side door on Friday, February 5 between the hours of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Practise COVID precautions. **Please email eblackwell.ca@gmail.com by February 4** if possible, if curbside is your choice. Another pickup time can be arranged if needed.

Participation and Practice

Here is an update on plans for our Annual Meeting for 2020. It is being held through electronic means from our homes because of current precautions. It will focus on necessary motions for an AGM. Details of time, how to connect, a request to advise of your plans to attend, and an opportunity to practise meeting electronically follow.

Thank you for your faithfulness, especially in these unusual times!

When: Sunday, February 14 10:00 a.m.

How to Connect and Participate: We will hold a meeting over Zoom, hosted by Andy Kalnins. You can participate in one of two ways:

1. **Members with internet:** A Zoom invitation will be forwarded to you by email by Dave Burkett during the week of February 7-13. To connect, simply click on the link in the invitation. Andy will admit you and verify your name(s). You may join with both camera and audio. Andy will mute your sound when needed.
2. **Members without internet:** You can join in the Zoom meeting over the phone (long distance may apply). We will phone you to give you the numbers to use prior to the meeting or deliver them by hand delivery. Once you phone in, you can hear and speak.

Motions and Voting: Those with internet can vote by raising a hand. Those connected over the phone can say their name and give their yes or no. *Continued over->*

AGM ... continued

Planning to Attend: All members are welcome to attend. We need a minimum of 15 members for quorum. We hope to have representation from those with children, single people, couples, long term members and new members.

Please advise of your plans to attend by **Monday, February 8** in 1 of 2 ways:

1. email: Enid Blackwell, chairperson eblackwell.ca@gmail.com
2. phone: 613 623-4562 Leave a message giving your name(s) and saying you plan to attend the annual meeting.

Practice: For those who wish to practise connecting, we will hold a practice Zoom meeting on **Thursday, February 11**. An invitation for this meeting will be given by email from Dave Burkett or over the phone so you can practise entry, talk briefly and practise a vote.

As the AGM meeting approaches, any change in plans will go out by email or phone.





UNPLUG - and Connect with Nature in a Small Town Setting

Plans for St. John's Lutheran exciting outdoor program for young children and youth from our congregation and the broader community are continuing. This pilot project, a 6-month nature-based program for two groups of children, younger and older, with 12 varied 'connection to creation' activities, is planned for every second weekend in an afternoon time period from April to September. We expect to engage two paid part-time young leaders, and involve congregational connected volunteers and parents and knowledgeable leaders from the area in safe experiences which build love and protection of nature, friendship and community contribution.

Through UNPLUG, your child or grandchildren may help create a community garden at St. John's, explore and help clean a riverside, observe and learn about the daytime and night sky, and do animal track learning and visit a farm. And be 'unplugged' from screens and on-line learning!

Cory Weckwerth has recently joined the Project Team of Ryan Zimmerling, Alison Burkett, Enid Blackwell and Pastor Norine Gullons. Welcome, Cory!

We look forward to receiving your ideas and questions, and to bringing you more news as further plans develop. Leave a message at 613 623-4562 or email eblackwell.ca@gmail.com.

One of our congregation, (Randy) decided that the church steeple needed repainting one day last summer. It was a rather hot day. Randy was about half way down and, as the steeple was widening out, was taking more paint. He felt that he might not have enough paint to finish. Since he was hot and tired, and did not care to make another trip to the ground, he decided to stretch the amount of paint by adding some paint thinner to it. When finished, he lowered himself to the ground and went about cleaning up. Then he looked up to see the results of his work and noted that the area with the thinned paint looked decidedly different. He was pondering about what to do about it when the sky turned dark and there was a lightning flash and loud thunderclap.

Then in a loud, booming voice from the sky came the words,

" REPAINT AND THIN NO MORE!"

Good News!

Our friend Jean, who spoke to our members about his peace building work in African nations when visiting Canada some years ago, has faced threatening situations and was forced to leave his home country. Over the last 2 1/2 years, he has been seeking status as a Convention Refugee in Canada. Recently he received news that his claim has been approved. Now he can apply for permanent residency (PR) and include his family, from whom he has been separated for almost 3 years. We rejoice with him!

Jean lived in Arnprior for over a year, and still considers Arnprior his Canadian ‘home community’. He now lives in Kitchener-Waterloo where he has had some contracts in social research and peace building. Together with friends and colleagues in KW, we continue to support Jean and his family through this transition time through Project Arnprior Cares.

See arnpriorcares.ca for more information, where you may consider a donation or take the opportunity to help by buying wonderful ‘Java de Jean’ coffee, roasted and prepared by a local Arnprior company. Jean asks especially that you remember them in prayer. A speedy PR process is desired as he, his wife and young sons are suffering emotionally and in difficult living situations during separation which has been exacerbated by the current pandemic.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR February 2021

DATE	READING	ALTAR	COUNTERS
Feb 7 th	Daryl Thom	Joanne & Lorne	Mel & Marion Bretzlaff (late February)
Feb 14 th	Karen Prince	Joanne & Lorne	
Feb 17 th (Ash Wed)	Synod Staff	Joanne & Lorne	
Feb 21 st	Ruth Stiefelmeyer	Joanne & Lorne	
Feb 28 th	Marilyn Kropp	Joanne & Lorne	