The St. John's Light

...let it shine!

357 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Y8 office@stjohnspembroke.ca stjohnspembroke.org (613)735-6332

October 2026

Do you know the joke about the size of the fish the man caught? Gradually stretching his hands wider and wider, he told his friend "I once caught a fish this... big..." How big was it? As big as his memory and imagination would allow.

How big is St. John's? Do we judge by our budget, which is a little under a third of a million dollars? That's the largest budget of any LCMS church in Canada. Do we judge by our membership? That's about 572 members. The next largest congregation in Canada has 390. Do we judge it by our attendance? St. Luke's in Toronto and St. John's have about the same numbers, although it's split between their English and Farsi services.

Church Size Theory suggests that congregations operate differently depending on their size, which the theory categorizes as family, pastoral, transitional, program, or "mega" size. St. John's would be considered a "transitional" congregation with between 140 and 220 in worship. Church analyst Gary McIntosh admits that these congregations "struggle to meet all the demands of their members (due to) insufficient resources." Canadian author Malcolm Gladwell writes that an attendance of 150 is a "tipping point." At that size, it becomes "difficult for everyone to know everyone, [so disagreements arise] over inclusion, who is in the know and who will get the time and attention of the 'spread thin' clergy." [1] Congratulations, St. John's! This is us.

Nothing is impossible with the Lord. But until God does the impossible, we consider what is probable. St. John's will naturally want to "transition" down to a more manageable size for one pastor. It's improbable we will be able to grow to a "program" size congregation with staff running children, youth, evangelism and senior activities. Can we become one of the few congregations that thrive between 140 and 220 in average worship? Yes, when we are rooted in Christ, and the Lord's Spirit is growing us in love. It may not look miraculous, but it will be supernatural.

I'm working alongside our elected council and committees with this goal in mind. We will have to think outside the box and be creative. Both our budget and our staff will always be stretched and stretching. Most importantly, though, we will need to show patience, love and encouragement to one another in the work the Lord is doing through us. Whatever size church we are, and whatever our God-given roles may be, "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." *(1 Cor. 15:58, ESV)*

Charles St-Onge

[1] https://www.ecfvp.org/files/uploads/Overview_of_Church_Size_Theory_Notes_Pages_072012.pdf

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL CHAIR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Church Committees have been working very hard over the past year. Most recently, they have been asked to create their 'wish lists' for different initiatives they feel called to do, whether that is in adding programs, creating services, or taking on projects related to their committee. Each committee is currently in the process of narrowing down this wish list and will be presenting their budgets in our upcoming Budget Meeting (Date to be determined - early November likely).

You, the congregation, will have a direct say in determining whether or not you accept and approve the budget for each committee, and in doing so be setting the budget for the whole church. The council members and committee teams will use this feedback as one way to get a feel for what direction our congregation would like to head toward in terms of missions and goals.

While it has been a long-standing tradition to always try to reduce budget spending acting in 'good stewardship', it would be reasonable to expect an increase within each budget area this year. Our committees have been reducing or keeping expenses equal for well over a decade and our church has had to reduce how many services it provides to its members as well as our community. Our council is still taking great care and attempting to reduce expenditures; Property will be forming a committee looking into options for the future of our Murray Street property, a cross-committee fundraising group is coming together for ideas to raise funds for projects and missions (i.e. our roof, community outreach, missions locally and internationally), and we continue to explore additional avenues to generate revenue while reducing expenditures.

On a somewhat budget related note, our council, upon reviewing the terms of the loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund - Canada, made a decision to reduce our loan request from $150,000.00 down to only $75,000.00 in our last meeting. This was in light of learning the interest rate of the loan being substantially higher than what would be earned from our GIC investments. We will be saving thousands of dollars by making this change. As an aside; someone had done a little number crunching and reported a very interesting and positive fact about the loan: if every household at St. John's contributed an extra $10 a month for the next two years, the loan would be paid off in full! We suggest holding on to your toonies for our upcoming restore the roof campaign!

If anyone has questions they would like to know about before our November congregation meeting please reach out to me and I would be happy to chat.

Yours in Christ,
Jon Hammel

The St. John's Giving Tree 2026

When the apostle Paul was preparing to go to Jerusalem and face his opposition, he reminded his co-workers of Jesus' words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." This Christmas season, we're invited to choose of three ways to give to others in mercy as Christ has given to us.



At the beginning of November there will be a giving tree set up at the back of the sanctuary. Pick up a label off the tree, prepare your gift, and return it to the same spot. Gifts will be delivered at the beginning of December. In the case of student kits, they will be available for family to pick up.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes (Cost: about $30)

Fill a shoebox with personal care items (toothbrush, washcloth, combs), school supplies, socks or sunglasses, and a cool toy for a boy or a girl. Add a note of thanks for the gift of the Christ child, Jesus. Visit: samaritanspurse.ca.



Student Comfort Kits (Cost: about $20)

Fill a gift bag with highlighters, pens, hard candy, tea bags or coffee pouches, energy bars, and a card signed with love! We have about a dozen young people connected with St. John's who will receive these gift bags over the holidays.



Help for the Homeless (Cost: about $10)

Purchase a pair of warm socks, mitts, a tuque or a scarf. These will be set out by size at The Grind's annual Christmas dinner, and made available to customers over the holiday season. Visit: thegrindpembroke.ca.

Raise the Roof
Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 24
Starts at 8:00AM

All proceeds will go towards the roof repair fundraising efforts. With your help, we can get a great start to our fundraising efforts.



Anyone wanting to organize a bake sale please contact Sarah Biggs.



"And now, a special prayer for our roof replacement fund"



Accepting donations of new/gently used clothing, household items, toys and small furniture items. Donations can be dropped off at the designated area in the church basement. Anyone wishing to assist with this thrifty fundraiser is welcome! Assistance needed with sorting, running the event, donations, cleaning up and spreading word about the sale.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OCTOBER

Dear Heavenly Father, We give thanks for the abundance of nature, for the beauty we see in the world, and for the joy and health You provide. We are thankful for our family and friends, and earthly blessings. We are grateful for the daily provision of food, for Your mercy and care. We are especially grateful for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice paid for our sins and whose resurrection gives us hope and eternal life with You.

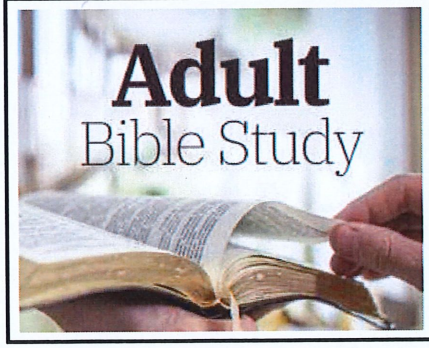


This October we express THANKS and GRATITUDE for Pastor St-Onge and the work he does for God within the church.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 4	Sunday School Teachers Meeting (following service)
October 8-10	Youth Camp Lutherlyn Retreat
October 11	Thanksgiving Sunday - Party Style Sunday School
October 25	Celebrate Baptismal Birthdays





To all parents of Sunday School kids ...

Come join our Adult Bible Study Sundays at 9:00AM. You'll study the same lessons as your children and can talk about it on the ride home from church. Everyone welcome!

October Memory Verse

"You shall not revile God,
nor curse a ruler of your people."
Exodus 22:28

Thank you to Deb St-Onge for leading our Sunday School in song each week. Ask your child what songs they are learning and if they can pick out the familiar song during the Sunday church service.





October Baptismal Birthdays

Norah Hammel
Diana Lemieux
Jaxon Providenti
Karson Rideout
Aubree Providenti
Emma Roesler

MISSION PROJECT

The Sunday School will be collecting for the Puerto Rico Mission. We are accepting monetary donations and pop can tabs. Watch our thermometer climb with each donation!

Youth GROUP

Camp Lutherlyn Youth Retreat
Grade 7-12 Students

Don't miss out on the fourth annual Camp Lutherlyn Retreat!

Thursday October 8 to Saturday October 10

Youth will enjoy hikes, campfires and games outside then come inside to the cozy fireplace in the common lounge. All bedrooms are heated and within the main cabin. Food is provided. A great opportunity for youth to connect with one another and further their connection with God.

Register via church website stjohnspembroke.org or call church office

Life after confirmation ....

There are many volunteer opportunities within the church. Consider assisting with running the screens, recording the services, being an usher or helping in the Sunday School. Training will be provided. Being an active member in the church is great way to meet other youth and feel connected to the church. Give it a try!!

Lutherlyn Youth Retreat
"Perusing the Parables"

Please register early so food and rides can be arranged.
Youth will meet at the church October 8th at 4:00pm, or parents can bring their children directly to the camp.
If you are able to bring an extra camper, please let Pastor or the church office know.

Permission forms are mandatory.



© 1994 Nick Hobart. More at Leadershipjournal.net/Cartoons

"You'll be responsible for developing spiritual maturity among our young people, who are the future of this church. We also need you to drive the van."

Communications & Public Relations

"If you can't sleep, don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd."

Homecoming Sunday September 13 welcomed 220 people to the church service and to reconnect. Events like this take a lot of effort from a lot of people: kitchen staff Paulette Behm, Heather Denault and Debbie Lance, set up Larry Dament, amazing clean up crew, and all of the generous cooks who supplied their favourite foods. Also, a thank you to Allan and Bruce Phinney for installing the community bulletin board in the coffee service area. Things went so well that it was suggested the Homecoming team of Barb Dupuis, Doreen Phinney, Debbie Bernard, and Sherry Crone establish it as an annual event.



If you have not accessed your church mailbox in some time you may find that the space for your name has been relocated. A lot of work has been given to update the mailboxes.

Please keep the church office informed of any changes to current contact information: telephone number, email address, and home address – (613)735-6332 or office@stjohnspembroke.ca. This way you will be able to receive the weekly Friday email which includes the Sunday bulletin and the activities for the upcoming week. We want to communicate with everyone!

DO YOU KNOW...

The hymn "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" (originally "Pray Without Ceasing") was written by Joseph M. Scriven, a wealthy and educated Irishman whose fiancée drowned the night before their wedding. Soon after this tragedy, Joseph left Ireland and moved to Port Hope, Canada where he wrote the hymn and became known as "The Good Samaritan of Port Hope". There he devoted his extra time to being a friend and helper to others, giving away all of his possessions. When asked who wrote those beautiful words his reply was "The Lord and I did it between us."

At the September 17, 2026 Church Council meeting, it was decided that the $50,000.00 GIC maturing September 26, 2026 will be cashed and the funds used to reduce the amount of money to be borrowed from Lutheran Life Extension fund to $75,000 to pay for church roof repairs.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Marilyn's Fruit Cheesecake

1. Prepare a cake bottom as follows:
   - 1 golden/yellow cake mix
   - 4 eggs
   - 1 instant vanilla pudding mix
   - ½ cup oil
   - 1 cup water
   - Mix for 2 minutes
2. Divide mix between two 9x13 pans. Bake at 350 for 20-30 minutes. Let cakes cool completely.
3. Prepare cheesecake filling (this is for one cake) by mixing together:
   - 2 – 8oz blocks of cream cheese
   - 1 cup icing sugar
   - Splash of vanilla
   - 1 container of Cool Whip
4. Spread filling over cake.
5. Top with a can of your desired pie filling.



SEENAGERS CORNER

Next Meeting Date: **Thursday, October 8, 2026**

Time: **2:00 pm**

Special Entertainment:

An afternoon of old-time traditional fiddling by DEAN LAPIERRE, one of the Ottawa Valley's best-known fiddlers, accompanied by Carson Bramburger and Debbie Bernard. Dean is a talented musician who has a passion for traditional fiddle music. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Fiddle & Stepdance Championship held in Pembroke every September.



Potluck Supper: **4:30 pm**

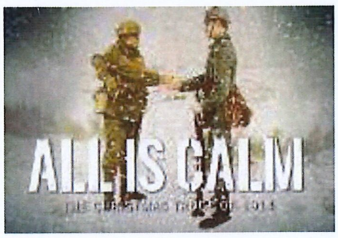
Senior's Trips & Upcoming Events

1. **Thursday, October 22, 2026 – Senior's Trip – Morrisburg** – CANCELLED due to insufficient interest.

2. **Thursday, December 3 – Saturday, December 5, 2026 – A Christkindl German Christmas – Kitchener & St. Jacobs** – Refer to Poster for trip details. You must contact Nancy Williams at Ottawa Valley Tours to register 613.723.5701/1.800.267.5288

3. **Thursday, December 10, 2026** – **Seenager Christmas Party**
   A Christmas turkey dinner will be catered by Schmidt's.
   $30 per person. More details coming soon.
   ALL SENIORS ARE WELCOME!

Ottawa Valley Tours
MOTORCOACH HOLIDAYS





St. John's Lutheran Church Seniors
A Christkindl German Christmas
December 3-5, 2026

Come and experience Canada's original festival of a German Christmas and a century of old traditions that open the holiday season. Come along and relive the magical memories of Christmas during this Annual Celebration.

Day 1: **Kitchener, ON**
Today we journey to Mennonite country and the charming town of **Kitchener**, where we will be graciously welcomed by our hosts at the Holiday Inn Express Kitchener Southeast for a two-night stay. This evening, we gather to enjoy a delightful dinner together. (D)

Day 2: **St. Jacobs | Kitchener, ON**
This morning, enjoy breakfast at the hotel before immersing yourself in **Kitchener's annual Christkindl Market**, a joyful celebration of German Christmas folklore, traditional cuisine, and charming holiday gifts. We then delight in a matinee performance of the beloved musical **"All Is Calm"** at the **St. Jacobs Hildebrand Schoolhouse Theatre**. This evening, we will enjoy a delicious dinner before returning to the hotel.

Day 3: **St. Jacobs | Ottawa, ON**
This morning, after breakfast at the hotel, we depart on a **guided tour** through the picturesque **Mennonite countryside**, where a local guide will share the rich history and traditions of Mennonite culture. We then enjoy time at the **St. Jacobs Country Farmers Market** for lunch and leisurely browsing before our return to Ottawa. (B)

Your Ultimate Holiday Experience Includes:
- Transportation aboard deluxe motorcoach
- 2 nights accommodation
- 2 breakfasts
- 2 dinners
- Leisure time for visiting the Annual German Christkindl Market in Kitchener
- Reserved theatre ticket for the matinee production of "All is Calm" at the Hildebrand Schoolhouse Theatre St. Jacobs
- Guided Mennonite countryside tour
- Time for shopping at the St. Jacobs Country Farmers Market
- Services of an Ottawa Valley Tours director
- All taxes

Cost Per Person:
Twin	$820 |	Triple	$738
Quad	$695 |	Single	$1077

$100 Deposit at time of booking / Final Payment 60 Days Prior to departure

For more information Contact - Debbie Bernard 613.638.3722

For Reservations Contact

Ottawa Valley Tours

613.723.5701/1.800.267.5288

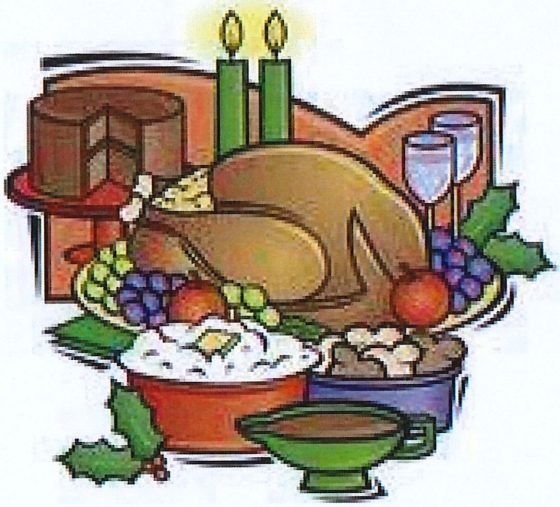
300 Eagleson Road, Kanata, ON, K2M 1C9

Travel Registration #2967742-5000006

CALLING ALL SENIORS!!!

YOU ARE INVITED
TO JOIN OUR SEENAGERS
FOR THEIR
CHRISTMAS PARTY





ENJOY A FULL-COURSE
CHRISTMAS TURKEY DINNER!!!
(CATERED & SERVED BY SCHMIDT'S)

Roast Turkey Buffet

Roast turkey, Dressing and Gravy, Cranberries,
Mashed potatoes, Hot vegetables,
Vegetables and Dip, Cheese and Pickles, Devilled eggs,
6 Different Salads, Buns & Butter,
Dessert, Tea and Coffee

***Date:* Thursday, December 10, 2026**

Time*: 2:00 PM** ***(Dinner: 4:30 PM)

Cost*: $30** ***(for the Christmas Dinner)

Contact Debbie Bernard (613-638-3722)
to register and make payment for the party.
Last date to register, and pay in full,
is Sunday, December 6, 2026

Choir Notes



This year our Choir will be performing a Christmas cantata called
"Come to the Manger"

Now is a good time to mark our Concert date on your calendar
Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 3:00PM

Again, this year, our Concert will be performed by the combined Choirs
of
St. John's, Pembroke and Christ Lutheran, Petawawa

If you would like to sing in our Christmas Choir this year,
all practices will be held here at St. John's, and practice dates are:

Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00PM
Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00PM
Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00PM
Saturday, December 12 at 10:00AM

If you enjoy singing, have an ear for music, and can follow a tune, come out and sing in our Christmas Choir . . . and *"Come to the Manger"* with us.

We always have an extra chair for you!

Debbie Bernard
Choir Director/Organist



HAPPY QUILTERS

Annual Christmas Craft Sale

The Happy Quilters annual Christmas Craft Sale is almost here!
Your chance to do early Christmas shopping and buy an extra-special, hand-crafted gift.
Choose a beautiful quilt for someone special, or another unique created item.
There'll be lots to choose from!!

Craft Sale Date: Sunday, November 15, 2026, at 11:30 AM











Interested in learning the Art of Quilting?

The Happy Quilters quilt every Wednesday at 9:30 am. Experience is not required. We will teach you. There is something for everyone to do.
Why not try this new hobby and make new friendships … quilting together.

~ The Happy Quilters

October 2026

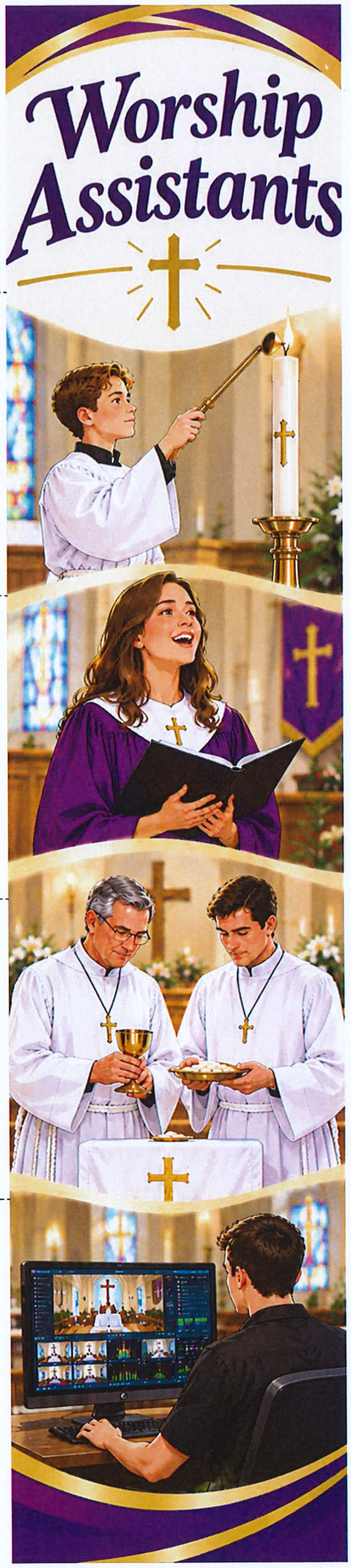
Communion Set-Up: Alison Shalla
Altar Guild: Joyce Raglin, Susanne Hammel
Elevator Assistant: Idalee Shalla
TV Screens: Linda Bramburger
Live Stream Video: Richard Kramer/Karen Craig

October 4th
Elders: Dave Trautrim
Acolyte: Nicholas Daoust
Sound System: Brian Schroeder
Psalm Cantor: Margaret Trautrim
Communion Assistants: Jon Hammel/Marcel Daoust
Hospitality: Biggs/Zadow

October 11th
Elders: Jake Bernard/Carson Bramburger
Acolyte: Landon Hammel
Sound System: Richard Kramer
Psalm Cantor: Esther & Margaret Zadow
Communion Assistants: Carson Bramburger/Dave Trautrim
Hospitality: Daoust Family

October 18th
Elders: Eric Zadow/Karl Hammel
Acolyte: Cole Phinney
Sound System: Richard Kramer
Psalm Cantor: Grant Bickel
Communion Assistants: Nathanael Alles/Eric Zadow
Hospitality: Anderson/Hammel

October 25th
Elders: June Carmody/Stephen Schroeder
Acolyte: Dylin Raglin
Sound System: Brian Schroeder
Psalm Cantor: Sherry Heubner
Communion Assistants: Matt Klein/Jon Hammel
Hospitality: Covell/Shalla



Church Family News



FOUR SCORE OR MORE BIRTHDAYS

October 6	Shirley Mullen (84)
October 15	Margaret Woodtke (94)
October 18	Elaine McLaughlin (85)
October 23	Eleanor Savard (82)
October 30	Inge Reckzin (85)

NOTABLE ANNIVERSARIES

October 9 Allan & Doreen Phinney (55)

FROM ST. JOHN'S WRITERS GROUP:

Autumn Breeze

I see the Autumn's gusty breeze
As it whips up a tapestry of crimson leaves.
Then rises up among the trees, to detach with ease
More of summer's canopies.

I feel the chill of that Autumn breeze
It cares not whom or what to tease
With threats of life or limb, to freeze
The garden flowers or Sumac trees.

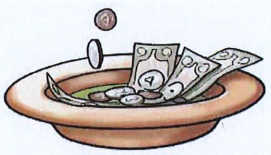
But, oh the scent of the Autumn breeze
Of ripened fruit still on the trees
With laden limbs bent down to knees
With sweetest plumbs and pears to seize.

That Autumn breeze can taunt and tease
Garden insects, birds and bees
So they steal away till Spring time breezes
Offer warmth and life that pleases.
~A poem by Linda Pedersen, September 2026

ST. JOHN'S WRITERS GROUP meets monthly at the St. Joseph Retirement Apartment Complex. New members are welcome. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact either Carol Brazeau (613)732-4135 or Debbie Bernard (613)638-3722. Next meeting date: Monday, October 19, 2026, at 10:00AM.

CURRENT OFFERINGS The amount we need each Sunday is $5,675.00 to cover approved expenses.

August 30	$3,187.25
August EMT	$9,597.19
September 6	$5,341.00
September 13	$4,334.25
September 20	$4,989.00



October Birthdays

October 1	Merrill Behm	
October 2	Kris Heubner	
October 3	Zachary Savard	
October 4	Debbie Bernard	
October 5	Shawnda Kraft	Lindsay Tourangeau
	Lori Burger	
October 6	Shirley Mullen	Jordan Linton
October 7	Amanda Clarke	Keith Fischer
October 8	Justin Fairfield	
October 11	Deb St-Onge	Murray Schroeder
	Owen Bannon	
October 12	Ethan Anderson	James Nieman
	Christa Wieland	
October 13	Leanne Hall	Janet Jones
October 15	Chantal Mask	Margaret Woodtke
	Avery Leavitt	
October 17	Allison Schroeder	
October 18	Elaine McLaughlin	
October 21	Noreen Woodtke	Aimee Raglin
	William Nieman	Emerson Vaillancourt
October 23	Susan Schalo	Eleanor Savard
October 24	Alicia Hilts	Angel Klein
	Heather Ayres	
October 25	Riley Johnston	
October 26	Kelly Kellough	
October 27	Scarlett Bisson	Kadin Hilts
October 28	Katelyn Biggs	Diana Hayes
	Blake Buchwald	
October 29	Arlene Hartwick	Rachel Lemieux
October 30	Inge Reckzin	
October 31	Alison Shalla	

FALL ITEMS The Altar Guild is looking for donations of corn stalks, gourds, pumpkins, and mums to decorate the church for Thanksgiving. Please bring to the church by the 9th of October.

DEADLINE! Parish paper submissions MUST be in by the 20th of each month. If they are not, they will not be included that month. Thank you! ☺ Please note that items submitted may be edited before printing.

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTES:				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 All Ages Sunday School 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 5:00 Adult Instruction	6:30 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service 6:30 Bible Study	2:00 Seenagers 6:00 Youth Retreat	Youth Retreat	Home from Youth Retreat
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 All Ages Sunday School 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 5:00 Adult Instruction	6:30 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service	6:30 Church Council		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
***PASTOR AT CONFERENCE** 9:00 All Ages Sunday School 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee	***PASTOR AT CONFERENCE** 10:00 St. John's Writers Group 6:30 Embers	***PASTOR AT CONFERENCE** **4:00 Deadline for Parish Paper submissions** 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	***PASTOR AT CONFERENCE** 9:30 Quilters	1:30 Miramichi Service		8:00 Raise the Roof Rummage Sale
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:00 All Ages Sunday School 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 5:00 Adult Instruction	6:30 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service 6:30 Bible Study			8:30 Men's Breakfast 11:00 LWML