



The St. John's Light

...let it shine!

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

September 2026

Routine vs. Unforeseen

Soldiers sometimes describe their work as days of boredom interrupted by minutes of sheer terror. It's not easy balancing those kinds of extremes! What prepares soldiers is having routines that make handling the unforeseen mentally and physically possible.

Life can be like serving in the military. Everything can seem routine and perhaps even boring. Then a spouse suddenly announces they want a divorce; a child moves back home after losing a job; a doctor diagnoses that pain in the stomach as a rapidly growing tumor. Suddenly dull days transform into hours of confusion, stress and anxiety.

Like soldiers, Christians prepare for the unforeseen and unexpected through routine activities that prepare us for whatever might come next. Each Sunday the Lord reminds us of his promises to us and feeds us with what the early Christians called the "medicine of immortality." We gather regularly for

study of God's Word. We attend confirmation classes, choir practices and Teenager events.

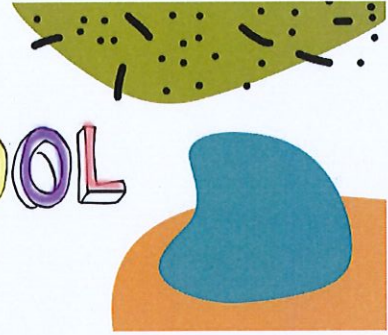
These routine activities aren't always exciting. But they root our hearts and minds in Christ's promise to be with us always even when the storms of life come. They teach us the Christian pattern of repentance ("I'm sorry I said that") and forgiveness ("And I forgive you.") Like soldiers these routine things prepare us for the moments when life becomes a challenge. They train us to bear whatever cross might come, and to follow Christ wherever he may be leading.

September marks the restart of many regular St. John's activities: Sunday and Wednesday Bible studies; Men's Breakfasts and LWML meetings; youth activities, confirmation classes and adult instruction; committee and council meetings. Like regular exercise, participation in these routine activities prepares us for the unforeseen. What does your regular Christian training look like? Let the Lord shape your routine and prepare you for what the next months will bring, whether it's the "same old, same old" – or the completely unforeseen.

Charles McOuzel



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon St. John's Sunday School, and we pray that Your Spirit may continue to work to nourish our children. O Lord, bless our children, teachers and volunteers as they study Your Word. May You provide wisdom, guidance and open hearts and minds that their faith will grow and glorify You, now, always, and forever. Amen.

2026-27 Sunday School Teachers:
Pastor St-Onge, Zoe Daoust, Dania Daoust, Dana Woodtke, Stephanie Hampel, Cynthia Schutt, Angie Anderson and Sarah Biggs

Please keep our children and teachers in your prayers.



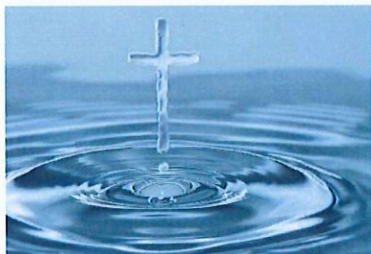
FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday, September 13th

In September, we will present a Bible to each of our Grade 3 students. If you wish to sponsor a student for \$50, please contact the church office.

Presentation of the Bibles will take place **Sunday Sep 13th** during the service.

Students receiving Bibles this year are:

Ava Hampel	Olivia Roesler
Isabelle Majaralie	Adilyn Schalo
Barilyn Price	Jack Tourangeau
Benjamin Raglin	Maxwell Vaillancourt
Leighton Rideout	Lillyanna Wieland



September Baptismal Birthdays:

Elizabeth Zador
Adilyn Schalo
Jack Tourangeau
Cole Phinney
Brailyn Price

MISSION PROJECT 2026/27

This year we will support the LCMS mission work being done by Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf in Puerto Rico.

Accepting money and pop can tabs!

September Memory Verse

"Be still, and know that I am God"

Psalm 46:10

Tropical Trek Vacation Bible School 2026

St. John's hosted another successful VBS. 34 children attended throughout the week, 40 volunteers donated their time, and \$350 was raised to support Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf for their mission work in Puerto Rico. **THANK YOU** to everyone for your help, support, donations and prayers.

LWMLC SEMINAR Inc.
Seminar on Saturday, October 3, 2026
at Christ Lutheran, Petawawa
Theme is "The Lord is My Song" Isaiah 12:2



A webinar was planned with Pastor D.J. Kim, Regina Police Chaplain and once Vicar sponsored by Christ, Petawawa, but unfortunately he will be with his ailing mother.

Instead we will have a recorded interview to share with our LWMLC and guests during the Seminar. We invite the women, men, and even children in your congregation to prepare questions and send to Rena Detlefsen at vpdalaurentian@lutheranwomen.ca by August 20th .

“I am the pastor of a ‘mobile church.’ The congregation I serve is made up of more than 150 hardcore gangsters—those breaking the law—and the police officers of the Regina and Moose Jaw Police Service —those working to uphold the law in the community.”

“This mobile church moves from one place to another, wherever the 911 radio dispatch leads. It responds to emergency calls dealing with domestic violence; homicide; suicide; and fatal car accidents. It also provides care in the police station; in the courtroom; in holding cells; as well as in youth and adult correctional facilities.”

“Central to the mission of this mobile church is providing God’s Word, hearing confession and delivering the sacramental gift of Absolution—first instituted by Christ Jesus Himself—to the dying, to the family members of victims, and to police officers dealing with trauma experienced on the job.”

“In this mobile church I have worked with some very, very violent people... people who are involved in the majority of violent gun crime in the province of Saskatchewan.”

—Chaplain DJ Kim, LCC Missions | Street Reach, SK

From missions to Pembroke

Pembroke—An unofficial national anthem for Canada, “*Northwest Passage*” by Stan Rogers reflects in the last verse about throwing away his settled life to see a “northwest passage,” but only finding in his travels “the road back home again.”

Pastor Charles St-Onge, the recently installed minister at St. John’s Lutheran Church Pembroke has lived this anthem.

Pastor St-Onge left Ontario in his 20s for the United States, first to work as an engineer and then answering the call to the pastoral ministry.

After serving in Philadelphia and Houston, he, his wife Deborah, and their two daughters accepted a call to serve as international missionaries. They spent a brief time in mainland China and Hong Kong before being placed in Quebec.

From there, he served as mission coordinator for Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands while also leading a small, multicultural and multilingual congregation in inner-city Montreal. Now, having gone around the world, he has found the road back home to the Ottawa Valley and to St. John’s.

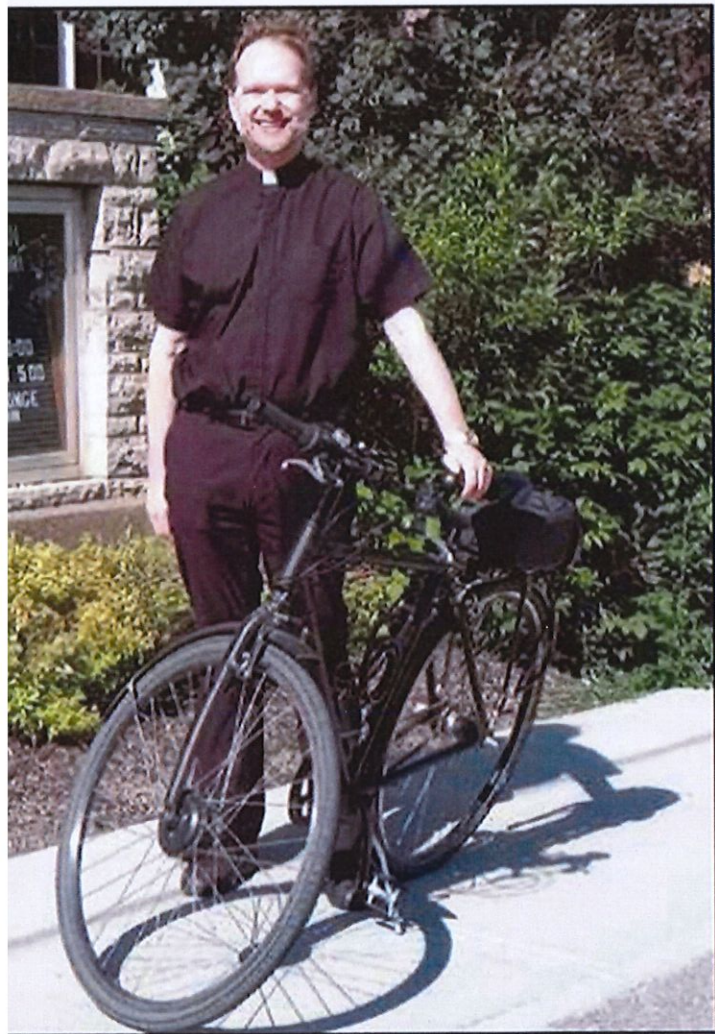
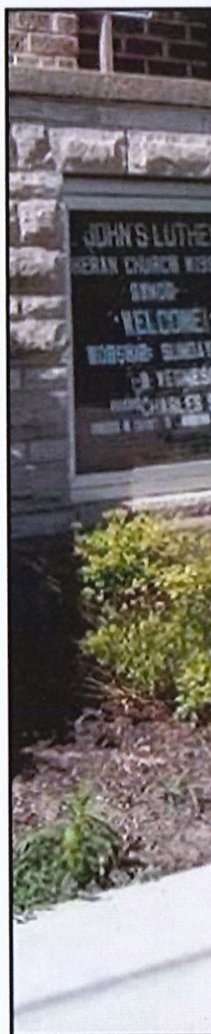
Living in Pembroke offers Pastor St-Onge many opportunities to enjoy his love of biking. In his youth, he would take the Ottawa Valley path from Orleans to downtown to meet up with friends during the summer. In Kunming, China, he biked around the compact city of 7 million people. Taking advantage of Pembroke’s much smaller size,

Pastor St-Onge now uses his bike to introduce himself to members and be more visible in the community.

“Jesus’ approach was to come to a town, take notice of the needs of the people, and announce the coming of the kingdom of God,” he said. “The church gathers to receive Jesus in a building, but we don’t stay in that

building. We take the forgiveness and mercy Jesus gives us and offer it to others at work, at school, and even on the streets. Even by bike!”

Let’s hope that “the road back home again” as mentioned in the Northwest Passage song, is a road to celebrate for Pastor St-Onge and his family.”



Pastor Charles St-Onge likes to visit his parishioners by bicycle.



St. John's Lutheran Seenagers Corner

*St. John's Seenagers . . . where we make new friends
and get to know our old friends better
All Seniors are welcome!*

NEXT SEENAGER MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2026 – Time: 2:00PM

Bunco following the Meeting

Upcoming Events Hosted by the Seenagers

Contact: Debbie Bernard (613)-638-3722

1. September 24/25, 2026 – "Come From Away" at the Thousand Island Playhouse, Gananoque, including time in Kingston. **Trip IS FULL.** Please direct questions to Nancy Williams at Ottawa Valley Tours, 1-800-267-5288. An Itinerary for this trip will be sent out directly to individuals by Ottawa Valley Tours.
2. Thursday, October 8, 2026 – Seenager Meeting at 2:00pm. Entertainment by Special Guest and well-known fiddler, Dean Lapierre, along with Carson Bramburger and Debbie Bernard. Dean has been a musician for more than 50 years and has a passion for traditional fiddle music. He is also on the Board for the Canadian Fiddle & Stepdance Competitions held in Pembroke each September.
3. Thursday, October 22, 2026 – "Get Down with Leisa Way – 70's Soundtrack" in Morrisburg. \$135 per person. Trip includes transportation, lunch buffet and show ticket. 20 more people are needed to sign up to make this trip a go. Please sign up now if you are thinking of going.
4. Thursday, December 3 – Saturday, December 5, 2026 – "A Christkindl German Christmas" in Kitchener & St. Jacobs. Refer to Poster for trip details. 20 Seats are available. You must contact Nancy Williams at Ottawa Valley Tours to register 613.723.5701/1.800.267.5288
5. Thursday, December 10, 2026 – Seenager Christmas Party All seniors are welcome! More details to follow.



HOME COMING SUNDAY



*Sunday, September 13, 2026
St. John's Lutheran, Pembroke*

*Sunday School at 9:00AM
Worship Service at 10:00AM
Potluck Lunch following the Service*

VACATIONS are over ... SCHOOL has started ... LEAVES will be changing colors ...

September always feels like a fresh start! It's ingrained in all of us!
A time to try something new, or restart something
that you've taken a break from!
Join a group!

Come out on HOME COMING SUNDAY ...

Reconnect with friends at St. John's!
Your Church Family is eager to see you!
Bring your children and grandchildren to Sunday School (9:00AM)
Worship together. Sing together.
Share a delicious Potluck Lunch together.

*(Sunday School Staff will be installed,
and the Grade 3 children will get their bibles.)*

*"O come, let us sing to the Lord:
Let us make a joyful noise
To the Rock of our salvation..." (Psalm 95)*



COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to enjoy.”

*“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”
(Psalm 118:24)*

Highlights of Congregational Meeting Sunday August 9, 2026

Major repairs are required to a section of the church roof. Three quotes were received and the contract was awarded to Irvcon Roofing at a quoted price of \$119,000 plus HST.

In order to pay for this necessary repair, a \$30,000 GIC maturing in September will be cashed in and a \$150,000.00 loan will be secured from the Lutheran Life Extension Fund.

Funeral Lunch Committee

The Funeral Lunch committee would like to say thank you to everyone who has been so generous with donating their time and baked goods for funerals.

St. John's has a long-held reputation for providing exceptionally good funeral lunches. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

All of these generous donations have generated funds for the church.

Recently some of the funds were used to purchase an air conditioner for the kitchen and two comfortable stools to assist with counter work.

Thanks to everyone and their contributions.

Choir Notes

Choir practice begins on Tuesday, September 1, at 7:00pm.

Again, this Fall, there is great new music to look forward to ... older music that we all love ... and our Joint-Church Christmas Choir practicing for its special Concert on Sunday, December 13, 2026, 3:00pm. So much to look forward to with heart and voice!

If you enjoy singing, have an ear for music, and can follow a tune, why not come out and try singing with the Choir? There's always an extra chair!

It's going to be an exciting Fall season!

*Debbie Bernard
Choir Director/Organist*

HAPPY QUILTERS

Happy Quilters Welcome Pastor Charles & Deborah St-Onge with a Quilt

On June 24, 2026, the Happy Quilters hosted a Canada Day lunch for Pastor Charles & Deborah St-Onge and presented them with a welcome gift ... a hand-made quilt, created especially for them. Welcome to St. John's Pastor Charles & Deb!



(Quilters in photo from left to right: Back: Deborah & Pastor Charles St-Onge

Front: Lucy Coulter, Ellen Mead, Joyce Marcuccio, Helen Kramer, Carol Brazeau.

Not in photo but present: Barbara Alles, Wendy Anderson, Paulette Behm, Debbie Bernard, Shirley Mullen)

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.

Looking for a special gift? How about a hand crafted QUILT?

The Happy Quilters have a large selection available.

If you are interested in a Quilt, contact any of the following people:

Joyce Marcuccio (613)732-7440

Helen Kramer (613)687-2993

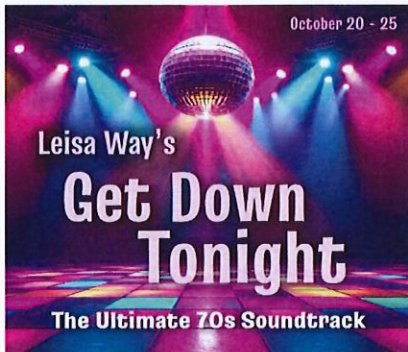
Paulette Behm (613)732-7394

~ The Happy Quilters

SEENAGER EXCURSION

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church Seenagers

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026



2:00 PM Matinee Show

**Upper Canada
Playhouse, Morrisburg**

GET DOWN TONIGHT

with Leisa Way

(The Ultimate 70s Soundtrack)

It's a high energy concert of the greatest hits of the 70's! From DISCO to FOLK, to ROCK, this powerhouse concert features hits from The Eagles, Led Zeppelin, Fleetwood Mac, James Taylor, ABBA, Carole King, Elton John, The Bee Gees, The Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Joni Mitchell, and more.

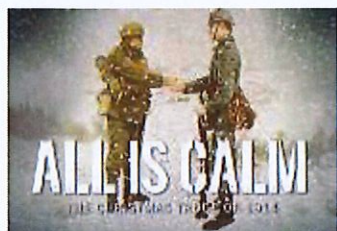
Departure Time: 8:00 AM from St. John's Lutheran Church Parking Lot

Lunch: McIntosh Inn, Morrisburg (included)

Price: \$135 per person

Contact: Debbie Bernard 613-638-3122

Please sign up as soon as possible so that we know if the trip will be a "go".



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



FOUR SCORE OR MORE BIRTHDAYS

September 1	Victor Lipke (84)
September 17	Carol Brazeau (80)
September 27	Barrie Hartwick (82)

NOTABLE ANNIVERSARIES

September 10	Derek & Susan Schalo (15)
September 18	Bill & Phyllis Pinkerton (55)
September 21	Peggy & Kyle Norlock (25)

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our 60th Wedding Anniversary celebration such a special and memorable occasion.

A very special thank you to Pastor Charles for his help and for all of his prayers and support. We are also so grateful to our daughters, Connie and Diana, and their families, as well as my sisters, and everyone who helped behind the scenes.

Thank you to the kitchen helpers, our cousins, Wendy, and Sherry, for all your hard work preparing and serving the wonderful food. A special thank you to Carson and Daryl for operating the elevator and helping make the day easier for everyone.

Most of all, thank you to our church family and congregation for attending, celebrating with us, and sharing in this very special milestone. Your love, kindness, prayers, and presence meant so much to us.

We are truly blessed to have such wonderful family and friends surrounding us. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for helping make our 60th Anniversary a celebration we will always cherish.

God Bless,
Barrie and Arlene

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

June 28	\$3,800.00
June EMT	\$5,540.00
July 4	\$3,295.00
July 2	\$4,109.00
July 9	\$2,377.00
July 16 & Aug 2	\$5,860.35
July 1 MT	\$7,621.99
August 9	\$2,476.35
August 16	\$2,159.00
August 23	\$1,301.90



September 1	Victor Lipke	William Phinney
September 3	Alma Turcotte	
September 4	Jayne DeRoy	
September 5	Elaine Edwards	Debbie Behm
	Norma Rantz	
September 7	Roy Doucette	Peggy Norlock
September 9	Adam Karau	Allison Kellough
September 10	Rosalie Daoust	Mikaela Roach
	Diane Mau	D'Lonna Wilson
September 11	Esmay Phinney	Linda Reiche
September 12	Elizabeth Zadow	
September 13	Mark Phinney	Ben Schroeder
September 14	Jonathan Hammel	Jaxon Providenti
	Madison Behm	
September 15	Nathan Raglin	Beverly Veaudry
September 17	Carol Brazeau	
September 18	Mark Behm	Cindy Laronde
September 19	Janet Bickel	Ryan Ternapolski
	Philip Buske	Mark Hoffman
September 20	Mateo Klein	Bryson Phinney
September 21	Chloe Heieck	
September 22	Charissa Hampel	Kaila Turcotte
September 23	Terry Woodtke	Karson Rideout
	Jennifer Bingley	
September 24	Norman Wodtke	
September 25	Jeffery Jones	Carley Paplinskie
September 26	Megan Turcotte	
September 27	Barrie Hartwick	
September 28	Andrew Smith	
September 29	Grant Heubner	Angela Dupuis-Majaralie
	Lillian Stuber	

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.

Worship Assistants for September 2026

Communion Set-Up: Angie Anderson

Altar Guild: Sherry Heubner, Carol Brazeau, Kathy Schroeder

Elevator Assistant: Ellsworth Mullen

TV Screens: Lauren Biggs

Live Stream Video: Richard Kramer/Karen Craig

September 6th

Elders: Dave Trautrim

Sound System: Brian Schroeder

Psalm Cantor: Esther & Margaret Zadow

Communion Assistants: Matt Klein/Jon Hammel

Hospitality: Anderson/Hammel

September 13th

Elders: Jake Bernard/Carson Bramburger

Sound System: Richard Kramer

Psalm Cantor: Sherry Heubner

Communion Assistants: Marcel Daoust/Carson Bramburger

Hospitality: Communications

September 20th

Elders: Eric Zadow/Karl Hammel

Sound System: Richard Kramer

Psalm Cantor: Heather Bickel

Communion Assistants: Dave Trautrim/Nathanael Alles

Hospitality: Covell/Shalla

September 27th

Elders: June Carmody/Stephen Schroeder

Sound System: Brian Schroeder

Psalm Cantor: Grant Bickel

Communion Assistants: Eric Zadow/Matt Klein

Hospitality: Trautrim



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTES:		1	2	3	4	5
		7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PASTOR'S WIFE APPRECIATION DAY 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee	*OFFICE CLOSED	7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service 6:30 Bible Study	2:00 Seenagers		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion/Homecoming 11:30 Potluck Lunch	6:00 Embers	7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service 6:30 Bible Study			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 11:45 Worship & Music Meeting 4:00 Deadline for Parish Paper submissions	6:00 Embers	7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service 6:30 Bible Study	8:00 Senior's Trip "Come From Away" -----> 1:30 Miramichi Service	Senior's Trip Home	8:30 Men's Breakfast 11:00 LWML
27	28	29	30	NOTE: Please check for updates to the calendar on our website stjohnspembroke.org		
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee	6:00 Embers	7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 10:00 Pastoral Care 5:00 Worship Service 6:30 Bible Study			