

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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April 28, 2022

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY EVENT

"FACING OUR PAST" ZOOM PRESENTATION - MAY 10 @ 7:00 pm

Pastor Piphoo of Trinity Lutheran in Worcester is leading a discussion on May 10th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Pastor Nathan invites you to join him for a Zoom presentation on his trip to Montgomery, Alabama in February to visit The Legacy Museum, the Peace and Justice Memorial, the Rosa Parks Museum and the Freedom Trails Museum. The presentation will be held on Zoom from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10. A recording of the presentation will be made available for those who cannot attend on May 10. For the Zoom link, and with any questions or for more information, please contact Pastor Nathan at npiphoo@trinityworc.org. -Social Justice Ministry Team

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Acton has recently returned to in-person community suppers. St. John's is sponsoring a supper on Wednesday, June 1st. We are in need of 6-8 volunteers to serve the meals to guests. There are no setup or cleanup duties. The time is 4:15 pm - 6:00 pm. All volunteers and guests are required to be fully vaccinated. Please email Christine Barilone at rbarilone@hotmail.com if you're interested in volunteering or have questions.

MISSION MOVES UPDATE

Thanks to all for your donations to the Mission Move Furniture Drive in support of Household Goods in Acton. Including all the bags, boxes and kitchen appliances, our group collected 110 items. The showroom in Acton looks wonderful and the clients are very happy. The team was very grateful for two days of sunny weather though we have managed to function in all weathers during the past four months. For information about Mission Moves, contact Jane Misslin, 617-953-0059, or Earl Baucom, 978-460-2481.



Check us out!
[@stjohnsudbury](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsudbury)



Visit our YouTube Channel
All of our worship videos
are available to watch at
our YouTube channel.

Find us at:
St John Lutheran Sudbury.

St. John Lutheran Church
16 Great Rd.
Sudbury, Ma 01776
978-443-8350
www.stjohnsudburyma.org

MAY 12TH, 4:00 PM – ZOOM MEETING TO DISCUSS RACE, RACISM, AND ANTIRACISM.

Our group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 4:00 PM for informal, unstructured discussion about books, ideas, and experiences touching on race, racism, and antiracism.

Please join us!

Any questions, contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044.



ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR MAY 3RD AND MAY 10TH

Please join us!!!

ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tuesdays, May 3rd and May 10th, at 11:00 AM for a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On May 17th, we will discuss “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah.

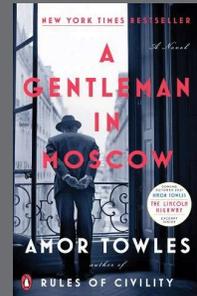
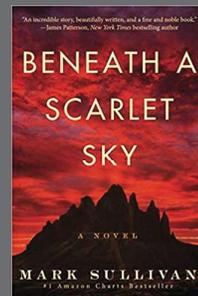
Any questions, contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044.

Next books:

May 17, 2022, “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah

June 21, 2022, “Beneath the Scarlet Sky” by Mark Sullivan

July 19, 2022, “A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Brian Young
Norma Duane
Liz Tolbert
Ruth Avery
Wendy
Ann Kirk
Claudine
George Stanley
Wanda Miller
Rick Sarvela
The Mitchelson Family (bereavement)

Christopher Miller
John Duane
Rhonda Tibbetts
Bill Davis
Jan Nielsen
Judy
Meg Davis
Ed Holmgren
The Rev. Tim Stein
Mark Sarvela

Charles Miller
Helen Williams
Alexis Marsh
Janice Potter
Marilyn Kunilius
Carolyn Sweeney
Joan LeDuc
Gus Sullivan
Sedona
Barbara Locke
Pastor Ivan Bespalov (in Kyiv)



THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

In my last article, I wrote a story with Moses' encounter with God in the bush that is burning but not consumed by the fire in mind.

I've always been fascinated by the awkward position Moses is in because of the ways his own life's story intersected with itself. There was the story of the baby left in the river for Pharaoh's daughter to find by his mother, hired to be his wetnurse. One difference between my story and Moses' was that he was raised both in his own home and in the home of Pharaoh. In Exodus 2 it tells us that after a time he *became* her son after being brought back to her by his mother. In the text of the story, it's at this point that he was given the name Moses, saying *it is because I drew him out of the water*.

It strikes me that the fact that this was an open secret plays a big part in Moses' own sense of identity, his struggles with seeing his people suffer while he lived well, and his wrestling with never really being part of either world. Seeing this makes his response to God even more compelling. "*Why me? Send someone else!*", giving the sense that Moses' response was more along the lines of, "I barely know who I am, and you expect me to do something like this?"

Regardless of whether we know our own parentage or not, our own history or not, understand what our life's vocation is or not, we all experience these moments of calling and conviction that leave us wrestling with who we are and what we're about. We see one of life's monumental tasks that become seminal moments in our lives and our identities — and we blink when we realize what we're drawn from the waters of baptism to do in response to this calling to new life in Christ.

Most of the time it's not as simple as a physical fight. Our struggles come in ethical dilemmas of how we use our time that cause us to recognize that what we choose will make a difference. Our choices come in how we allocate our resources to support causes we value while still keeping enough back for life and savings, or choosing which of our important things to sacrifice according to our current situation. Sometimes charitable giving is most important, sometimes it's rent, sometimes it's padding savings, and we're at a point that we can't choose all of them. Life is full of these hard choices.

In all of our wrestling, one thing in the story of Moses stands out to me as eternally profound: despite Moses' own feelings about his worth, God calls *him* because God sees something in him that's up to the task that he can't see for himself. This isn't just the story of Moses. This is our story, too.

AS we ponder the joyful mystery of resurrection during the Easter season, we recognize that we're not only being drawn from our baptismal waters into new life in Christ. We're also being drawn from the tombs of our own inability to perceive our true worth. God calls out to us in the voices of family and friends; in the places we spend our time and energy. God is creating within our hearts the capacity to do what we're being drawn from the water to do — not to make it easy, but telling us what God tells Moses, *I will give you words*. We don't rise to our own power and trust in ourselves.

We rise knowing that what God calls us into is something for which God will raise up in us enough of us and enough of God's presence to run the race to completion.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Eric

Easter Eggs Hunt



The kids had a blast hunting for eggs on Easter morning! And no one could resist climbing our favorite climbing tree—even in their Easter best!

CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

Confirmation students—present and future—gathered on April 24th to share ideas about Holy Communion. After considering and drawing what might be in front of us—or surrounding us—for a family meal, we discussed our holy meal and the significance of the bread and wine we eat and drink in the presence of the communion of saints. We then considered how our St John communion of saints works together to keep the “body” of our St John church working, and identified our individual gifts and how they contribute to the working body of St John.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Our Sunday School students returned from spring vacation on April 24th to talk about the Empty Tomb. We enjoyed another egg hunt—but there was no candy inside. Instead we found symbols of Jesus’s resurrection: linens, hearts, and an empty egg. We also discovered signs of spring: an egg, flowers, and seeds. After discussing how Jesus gave us new life just like flowers and seeds and eggs in spring, we wiggled and giggled as we practiced being flowers that grow from seeds into plants!



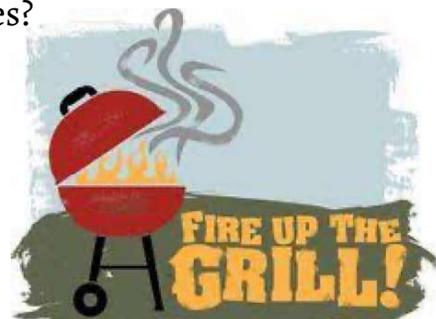
Are you a family with school-aged youth?
Would you like to do something different for dinner sometimes?
Would you like to connect with other St John members?

Well, then

FLASHY!

Is for you!

That’s Families Living (with) School-Aged Hungry Youth.



We will be gathering on 2nd Fridays and 4th Wednesdays starting in May
for BBQs in our own St John backyard.

Delicious food, conversation, and fun are all on the menu!

We will use our new barbecue grill, portable fire pit, and Adirondack chairs
provided through gifts and the Memorial Fund.

Mark your calendars, and plan to bring the whole family to enjoy dinner together
with other Families Living (with) School-aged
(Preschool counts and younger is fine too)
Hungry Youth! More details to follow.



Family Movie Date
with the
Maynard Family Network
3:00 PM, 04/30/2022
@ 16 Great Rd., Sudbury

Join us for a family movie date at St. John Lutheran Church. We have, once again, partnered with St. John to use their spacious rec room for an evening of arts n crafts, snacks, and most importantly a movie! Showing: Bluey - An Australian animated tv series that shows the comical side and hurdles of every-day family life for a family of 4 (dogs). Bluey is geared towards preschoolers but also good for a laugh from older crowds. There will be an arts n crafts table and an intermission game (geared for ages 8 and younger). Snacks (nut free), drinks and a popcorn station will be included. Please alert us of any allergies at maynardfamilynetwork@gmail.com. Covid Precaution: Masks are optional at this event. We will take measures like cross ventilation and HEPA filters. Please RSVP so we can maintain an accurate headcount for the evening. Thank you and hope to see you there! **IMPORTANT, HELP NEEDED:** This will be the last event to collect diaper donations for our diaper drive to restock Horizons for Homeless Children's stock. For more details about the Diaper Drive, please look in the events tab.

All Ages

Collecting for Kitchen Starter Sets!

Our Goal is 50 Sets!



We will be assembling Kitchen Kits for Household Goods at an upcoming Intergenerational Sunday School. You can help ahead of time by donating any of the following new or gently used items—or donating funds to purchase these items (check payable to St John, note Kitchen Kits in the memo section.) Please bring your donations to church by **Sunday, May 22nd**. Note: Most of these items can be purchased at the Dollar Tree for \$1.25 each. Thank you in advance to our own Outreach Ministry for working with our Youth, Family, & Education Ministry to make this happen!

- Can Opener
- Pot Holders (2)
- Dishcloth or Sponge Dish Towels (2)
- Set of Measuring Cups
- Measuring Spoons
- Slotted Cooking Spoon
- Wooden Spoon
- Spatula/Lifter
- Tongs
- Paring Knife
- Vegetable Peeler
- Cooking Fork
- Carving Knife
- Liquid Measuring Cup
- Ice Cream Scooper
- Potato Masher
- Wire Whisk
- Rubber Scraping Spatula

Located in Acton, Household Goods provides a full range of donated furniture and household items, free of charge, to help people in need make a home. Each year Household Goods furnishes over 2,500 homes. Most of the people who come to Household Goods need the most basic kitchen items. Kitchen starter sets are a great way to set up a kitchen for our clients. We need 50 sets each week to meet the demand for these sets.



HOUSEHOLD GOODS™
Helping People Make a Home.

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

April 29th	7:30 pm - Knitting/Sewing Group
May 1st	9:30 am - Worship (In-person) 10:50 am - Sunday School (In-person) 6:30 pm - Confirmation
May 2nd	Office Closed 10:00 am - Seniorcise (self-led) 7:30 pm - Stewardship Meeting
May 3rd	11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group 7:00 pm - St. John Social Justice Meeting/Event
May 4th	10:00 am - Seniorcise
May 5th	10:00 am - Bible Study 6:00 pm - Bells 7:00 pm - Choir
May 6th	7:30 pm - Knitting/Sewing Group
May 8th	9:30 am - Worship (In-person) 10:50 am - Sunday School (In-person) 6:30 pm - Confirmation
May 9th	10:00 am - Seniorcise
May 10th	11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group 7:30 pm - Youth and Family Ministry Meeting 8:00 pm - Executive Committee Meeting
May 11th	10:00 am - Seniorcise 6:00 pm - Outreach
May 12th	10:00 am - Bible Study 4:00 pm - Discussion on Racism/ Anti-Racism 6:00 pm - Bells 7:00 pm - Choir
May 13th	7:30 pm - Knitting/Sewing Group
May 15th	9:30 am - Worship (In-person) 10:50 am - Sunday School (In-person) 6:30 pm - Confirmation

Login information
<https://zoom.us/j/9784438350>
Meeting ID: 978 443 8350
(or call in 1-312-626-6799)

