

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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April 30, 2021

THE PASTOR HAS CLASS(ES)!

Pastor Eric is offering two classes by ZOOM for all who are interested beginning in May.

Now What?

2nd & 4th Sundays at 7:30pm by ZOOM, beginning Sunday, May 9!
All of us are in different places in our lives and faith, and we all face moments of doubt and challenge as well as joy and new life. But what does this even mean? What does it mean that we're Lutheran? That we're Christian? That we're "living out our faith"? And all of us, regardless of age, stage, or standing have stood in that place of saying, "Now what?" when faced with moments of doubt, loneliness, or struggle.

If you ever feel like you don't know what you're doing, this is the class for you.

Hope to see you there!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Eric



Check us out!
[@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

ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR MAY 4TH

Please join us!!!

We will have a ZOOM book club meeting on Tuesday, May 4th at 11:00 AM for just a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On May 18th, we will discuss "A Children's Bible" by Lydia Millet.

If you do not receive a ZOOM invitation email prior to the meeting time, please contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044.

Next books:

May 18, 2021, "A Children's Bible" by Lydia Millet

June 15, 2021, "Girl, Woman, Other" by Bernardine Evaristo

July 20, 2021, "Seven Sisters: Book One" by Lucinda Riley

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

5/2/21 11:00 AM *Let the Children Come to Me*
Family Sunday School - Zoom for all!

5/9/21 **No Class - Mother's Day**

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE - ALL CLASSES 6:00 PM VIA ZOOM

5/2/21 *Bondage of the Will*

5/9/21 **No Class - Mother's Day**

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study has moved back to it's previous time of Thursday mornings at 10:00 am.

Contact Ippolit Matjucha if you would like more information.



KNITTING/SEWING GROUP VIA ZOOM

7:30 PM
FRIDAYS!



COFFEE & CONVERSATION VIA ZOOM

10:00 AM
SUNDAYS



SAVE THE DATE!

Most Meetings are held via ZOOM
Call church office if you are having trouble connecting.
(Zoom meeting information is below and is the same for MOST church meetings)

ZOOM Meeting

Login information

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

April 30th
May 2nd

May 3rd
May 4th
May 5th
May 6th
May 7th
May 9th

-7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
-10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation'
-11:00 am - Zoom Family Sunday School
-6:00 pm - Confirmation
-7:30 pm - Class with Pastor Eric-*The World According to John*
-NO Seniorcise
- 11:00 am -Seniors on the Go Book Group (Jan's Zoom)
-NO Seniorcise
-10:00 am - Bible Study
- 7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
-10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation'
-11:00 am - Zoom Family Sunday School
-6:00 pm - Confirmation
-7:30 pm - Class with Pastor Eric-*Now What?*

CONSIDERING MARY MAGDALENE

An Experiential Reflection

Standing at the edge of the entrance and peering inside, he looked in and saw them lying there.

Running past the beloved one, he saw that the linen that covered his face was rolled up apart from the rest as if it wouldn't be needed any more.

She told them just a little while ago, "He's gone! We don't know where they've taken him!"

Grave robbers leaving behind the dressings but neatly rolling the head covering would be strange. It was less strange to think that perhaps the Roman guards had moved the body to further desecrate it, or even stranger than grave robbers, that perhaps the priests, scribes, and elders had removed the body to deprive them of their grief. Whatever happened it was weird. But these were weird days and anything's possible at moments like these.

Seeing these things was weird, but weirder still was Jesus' cryptic statements that he would die and be raised from the dead after three days. They still couldn't grasp that they were witnessing the fulfillment of this promised resurrection, because as weird as things were these days, this was still too much to consider. Seeing the tomb empty as Mary described, the men left for their homes leaving Mary behind at the grave.

Alone again, as she had been early that morning when she went to visit Jesus' tomb.

Alone again, the living world buzzing around her, flowers fragrant in their bloom as they always are in early April.

Alone again, even the tomb was empty.

Mary wept.

Had she ever been so alone?

She wept, and looked once more into the tomb only to see two figures in white where Jesus' head and feet would be. They had the temerity to ask, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Looking back, she imagined the things she would have said if she weren't so stunned by what felt like their thoughtless forwardness and the fact that they hadn't been there even a moment earlier. Instead of the clever responses, she stated plainly, "They've taken Jesus and I don't know where!"

Then a third person approached for what was apparently a garden party and said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" There was something a little different about this voice, and even though he was probably just a gardener he might know something. This time instead of just telling the man what happened, she needed answers. "Look sir, if you're the one who took Jesus then just tell me where he is so I can take him someplace safe — and a little more private."

"Mary!"

His voice cut through her tears and caught in her throat like the sobs it interrupted. The voice that cast out her demons and revealed to her the nearness of God as a present reality rather than some hoped-for eventuality.

Hearing her name, this single word caused the rebreaking of her heart, this time with joy rather than sorrow. A hope that existed but she ignored, because he did say he would rise from the dead after three days — but that doesn't happen. The dead stay with their own. Couple it be?

"Mary!"

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“Teacher!”, she said as she leapt to her full height and tugged him into a tight embrace. She thought, “He wasn’t being cryptic, the truth was more than we could bear, deeper than we could hear, too hopeful to hope for!”. She held her teacher close with new tears.

“Embrace, but don’t cling to me!”, Jesus said through a smile. Even in the smile, Mary recognized that unique single-minded devotion to the work before him. Jesus continued, “I haven’t ascended yet to our Father, and I’m here for just a little while and still have a lot to do. Go tell the other disciples, ‘I am ascending to my father and your father, to my God and your God’.”

The moment was over as quickly as it began, and before she knew it she was on her feet running back to the others to tell them the news they wouldn’t believe, and certainly couldn’t understand. Jesus had revealed it all to them with unique transparent clarity, but like all truth, they could only see it when their hearts were open and they had ears to hear.

Mary Magdalene, from whom seven demons had been cast.

Mary Magdalene, witness to the crucifixion and first witness of the resurrection.

Mary Magdalene, the first preacher in the history of the Church went to preach the first sermon of the resurrection, “I have seen the Lord!” and told them everything Jesus told her to say.

We follow in the footsteps of Mary, proclaiming this truth throughout the ages, “I have seen the Lord!”. May her witness live forever.

Grace & Peace, PEW

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY NEEDED

It’s an exciting time in the life of St. John! As we look to the future, we’re staffing for the future by seeking out a Director of Youth & Family Ministry. Please think of the people in your life who have the skills needed for this position, and whoever it is, even if it’s you, make certain they contact Pastor Eric using this link:
<http://bit.ly/sjsdyfm>

We’re so excited to see what God has in store for this congregation as we work to grow into God’s vision for our congregation.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Eric

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Rachel Florey	Brian	Bill Moldwin
Regina Mueller	Johnny	Wendy
Richard	David Donnelly	Christopher Miller
Brian Young	Trish Sarvela Leiva	Alexis Marsh
Robin Hartford	Brennan McGinnis	Paul Simeone
Pat Quinn	Patricia Jolou	John Duane
Rhonda Tibbetts	Ruth Avery	Jim Hansgate
Charlotte McNeil	Janice Potter	Ron Rakowsky
Isla Rose Kelley	Norma Duane	June Carins
Peter Kindem	Steven Greene	Erica Kivimaki
Bill Davis	Rev. Roald Kindem	Inger Rhoads
Larry Wolff	Liz Tolbert	



We have learned that Pastor Larry Wolff has been hospitalized for two weeks while being treated for diverticulitis, but he is on the mend now and hopes to be home soon. Please remember him in your prayers.



KITCHEN STARTER KITS

The Confirmation Class is planning a service project to create Kitchen Starter Kits for the Household Goods Recycling Ministry. You can help in one of 2 ways.

Pick up any of the items listed below and dropping them off in the box just inside the church entrance on North Rd (most can be found at the Dollar Store); or, Send a check payable to St John Lutheran Church with a note in the memo section designating it for the HGRM service project.

Most Needed Items:

- 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

Additional Useful Items:

- Liquid Measuring Cup
- Spaghetti Spoon Server
- Ice Cream Scooper
- Pizza Cutter Wheel
- Potato Masher
- Wire Whisk/Beater
- Rubber Scraping Spatula
- Cheese Slicer
- Calendar

Please deliver items and checks to church by
 Monday, May 24th!
 Thank you in advance for your help!



HOUSEHOLD GOODSSM

Helping People Make a Home.

