

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor: The Rev'd Eric Wolf (pew@stjohnsudbury.org) cell: 803-760-0222
Administrative Assistant: Valerie Ripley (office@stjohnsudbury.org)
Director of Choirs: Benjamin Perry (choirdir@stjohnsudbury.org)
Organist: Bart Dahlstrom (organist@stjohnsudbury.org)
Sexton: Ron Hagopian (haggy0412@msn.com)

April 8, 2021

BOOK DISCUSSION TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Join the Social Justice Ministry team and our partners at Trinity Lutheran for a discussion of *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson via Zoom! Poetically written and brilliantly researched, *Caste* invites us to discover the inner workings of an American hierarchy that goes far beyond the confines of race, class, or gender. A book steeped in empathy and insight, *Caste* explores, through layered analysis and stories of real people, the structure of an unspoken system of human ranking and reveals how our lives are still restricted by what divided us centuries ago. *Caste* is available for purchase in hard copy and as an E-book or audiobook online.

ZOOM Meeting Login information

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

SODERLING BEQUEST TO ST. JOHN'S ENDOWMENT

The St. John Ministry Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce that Virginia (Ginnie) Soderling designated St. John's endowment fund as the benefactor of a substantial life insurance policy and has realized, upon her death earlier this year, her wish for perpetual support of our ministries. Her gift has now been invested by the committee and earnings from its growth will join those of others to be used as needed by the congregation. If you are interested in either meeting with the committee as they discuss the investments undertaken or in ways that you can support the endowment fund by gifts, bequests or memorials, please speak to one of the members of the committee. We are truly welcoming of your interest and support.

The committee:

Alan Bascom, Jim Gronemeyer, Paul Haugsjaa, Gim Hom or
George Nielsen



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

Find us at:
St John Lutheran Sudbury.



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

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 APRIL 13th

Please join us!!!

We will have a ZOOM book club meeting on Tuesday, April 13th at 11:00 AM for just a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On April 20th, we will discuss "Girl in Translation" by Jean Kwok.

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. And, if you need help connecting to the ZOOM meeting, let Jan know; she will help you.

Next books:

April 20, 2021,

"Girl in Translation" by Jean Kwok

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

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

OUR COURTYARD WAS A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM!

After a full year of Zoom Sunday School as our only learning option, we decided to try gathering for a masked, socially-distant Sunday School event the week of Palm Sunday. While the weather was beautiful all week, Sunday's forecast was for chilly rain so we moved Sunday school to Thursday that week. It was a beautiful day, and we enjoyed making Easter Resurrection gardens together and stuffing Easter goody bags for Maynard's Backpack Project. We also waved our palms all over the courtyard, met with our puppet Eli the Palm Sunday Donkey, and decorated our sidewalks with colorful drawings. Our conversations centered around the last few days of Jesus's life and how the dish gardens we made traced Jesus's final hours with a garden to pray, the cross where Jesus died, and the tomb where the stone was rolled away.

As the weather gets nicer, we hope to offer outdoor Sunday school gatherings more frequently while continuing to provide Zoom lessons for our families who are most comfortable with remote learning.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Rachel Florey

Regina Mueller

Richard

Brian Young

Robin Hartford

Pat Quinn

Rhonda Tibbetts

Charlotte McNeil

Isla Rose Kelley

June Carins

Steven Greene

Erica Kivimaki

Brian

Johnny

David Donnelly

Trish Sarvela Leiva

Brennan McGinnis

Patricia Jolou

Ruth Avery

Janice Potter

Norma Duane

Dave Weber

Arline Quinn

Bill Moldwin

Wendy

Christopher Miller

Alexis Marsh

Paul Simeone

John Duane

Jim Hansgate

Ron Rakowsky

Pam McKay

Peter Kindem

Liz Tolbert



UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

4/11/21

Peter - Do you love me?

4/18/21

No Class - April Vacation

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

4/11/21

Grace

4/18/21

No Class - April break

KNITTING/SEWING GROUP VIA ZOOM

7:30 PM
FRIDAYS!



COFFEE & CONVERSATION VIA ZOOM

10:00 AM
SUNDAYS



SAVE THE DATE

April 11th	-10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation' -11:00 am - Sunday School -6:00 pm - Confirmation
April 12th	- 10:00 am - Seniorcise
April 13th	- 11:00 am -Seniors on the Go Book Group (Jan's Zoom)
April 14th	-10:00 am - Seniorcise -6:00 pm - Outreach Team Meeting
April 15th	-10:00 am - Bible Study
April 16th	- 10:30 am -Senior Ministry Team Meeting - 7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
April 18th	-10:00 am - Coffee and Conversation' NO Sunday School - school vacation NO Confirmation - school vacation

All Meeting are held via ZOOM
Call church office if you are having trouble connecting.
(Zoom meeting information 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)

BIBLE STUDY NEW TIME

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

Contact Ippolit Matjucha if you would like more information.



REALER THAN REAL: SOMETIMES SEEING ISN'T

Daddy, I just need the book. (Audible eye roll follows.)

- My Toddler, probably

It was a wonderful routine: bath; brush what needs brushing; snuggle up in the rocking chair for books and lullabies, followed by singing the Lord's Prayer and reminding her of her baptism; then laying her in the crib so she could offer the perfunctory protests and drift off to sleep after partying for a few minutes. I wouldn't say she was always cooperative, but it was our thing. I was so glad we had a thing.

Then on Good Friday we took the crib face off and installed a toddler rail. That evening she didn't want snuggles from my bride, we kind of laughed about it. The Saturday she didn't want a thing to do with me. And so it's gone since, we get to her room and she runs full steam to the bed and takes a flying leap into the stuffed zoo she insists on keeping in the bed with her. And once she's appropriately buried so she looks like a cute little prize in a crane machine, only then will she condescend to have a story from Daddy.

She does still like the prayer song and the blessing. That's something.

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When she turned three yesterday, I was stunned because we just brought her home like last week! Pictures pop up on my phone and Facebook from that afternoon when she was born at 4:44, and I see pictures of her snuggled up in the baby burrito we learned to wrap. I see pictures from her at one, still looking so babyish and curious. I see pictures of her from last year, and see her humor and her smile, still seeming more baby than toddler. But this year — this year there's no denying that she's not simply a toddler, but is showing flashes of the little girl she's becoming.

We spent some time yesterday afternoon at the park, and I saw a flash of that utter determination to conquer the caterpillar ladder to the slide as she did lap after lap after lap of climb up, climb across, climb to the slide, slide down, rinse and repeat. If it wasn't 30 times in an hour I'd be shocked.

I heard her voice as she spoke some of the clearest sentences and words she's offered. I watched her that morning looking with great concern and care as she chose between the two outfits I offered and decided she wanted rainbows.

I saw it all, and I can't believe it.

This week has the same Gospel text every year, Thomas was gone when Jesus returned to spend time with the other ten disciples. When he hears that Jesus was there and he missed it, he just refuses to believe until he sees for himself the wounded hands and feels for himself the pierced side of the savior, his teacher, his friend, Jesus. I get it. The dead don't just get up and walk, especially after being crucified. Dealing death is something at which the Romans excelled, after all.

And when Thomas saw his hands and felt his pierced side — even after he offered his confession of faith, I can't help but feel in my gut the disbelief that he must have experienced. Now I'm not saying Thomas lacked faith what I'm saying is that we all have those moments in our life when the cognitive dissonance between what we know and what we see just cannot be reconciled.

I saw my daughter's head crown. I already loved this kid from the moment I knew of her existence when she was just "peanut". I loved this kid already when I first heard her hummingbird heartbeat. I loved this kid already when we saw her in the first ultrasound and there she was, somehow sitting so serenely in what looked like the lotus position. I loved this kid already when we saw the 3-D alien ultrasound.

I loved this kid already, before she existed because she's the one for whom we'd been praying, trying, hoping, and waiting for during what was nearly ten years. I loved her before she was being knit in her mother's womb — seems like there's something biblical there, right?

But in that moment, as much as I loved her, my heart and my identity were forever changed because when I saw that head crown I underwent an ontological transformation from "the father" to "Daddy", and Eric who existed before has passed away and Eric is made new!

I saw her yesterday and didn't believe my eyes or my ears, put her to bed last night and could hardly believe my empty lap because she's just so grown and dependent and tough as nails and so fragile all at once. I leaned down and said, "I love you, kid" like I do every night as I kiss her forehead.

"I love you, Daddy." I needed those words to make that moment real.

Thomas needed not the wounds to believe, but the words of Jesus to let him know that he hadn't been left out of it.

Sometimes seeing just isn't enough when our heart can't tell the difference between what's real and what's longed for. It's amazing how much of life and faith are like that.

Grace & Peace,
PEW