

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor: The Rev'd Eric Wolf (pew@stjohnsudbury.org) cell: 803-760-0222
Director of Youth & Family Ministry: Michelle Rose (mrose@stjohnsudbury.org)
Administrative Assistant: Valerie Ripley (office@stjohnsudbury.org)
Director of Choirs: Benjamin Perry (choirdir@stjohnsudbury.org)
Organist: Bart Dahlstrom (organist@stjohnsudbury.org)

August 19, 2021

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

August 20th	-7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
August 22nd-	-9:30 am - Worship at St. John
August 23rd	-10:00 am - Seniorcise
August 24th	-11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group
August 25th	-10:00 am - Seniorcise
	-8:00 pm - New(ish) Parents Group
August 27th	-7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
August 29th	-9:30 am - Worship at St. John
August 30th	-10:00 am - Seniorcise
August 31st	-11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group
September 1	-10:00 am - Seniorcise
September 3rd	-7:30 pm - Knitting/Crafting Group
September 5th	-9:30 am - Worship at St. John



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



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.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open
9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday
and will be closed on Fridays.

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Please wish a very Happy Anniversary to Duane and Liz Packard. Duane and Liz will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on August 26th.



WELCOME

Congratulations to Kim and Adam Newell on the birth of their daughter Olivia Lynn Newell, August 8th. Olivia is the granddaughter of Mike and Valerie Ripley



ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR AUGUST 24TH AND AUGUST 31ST

Please join us!!!

ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tuesday, August 24th and Tuesday, August 31st at 11:00 AM for a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read. September 21st, we will discuss "The Forgotten Garden" by Kate Morton.

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

Next books:

September 21, 2021, "The Forgotten Garden" by Kate Morton
October 19, 2021, "The Last Train to Key West" by Chanel Cleeton
November 16, 2021, "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich

AUGUST 26TH AT 11:00 AM – ZOOM MEETING TO DISCUSS RACE, RACISM, AND ANTIRACISM.

Our group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 11:00 AM 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.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Debbie Reed
Christopher Miller
John Duane
Jim Hansgate
Alexis Marsh
Bill Davis
Marilyn Hartke
Marilyn Kunelius

Walter Sarvela
Charles Miller
Helen Williams
Liz Tolbert
Ruth Avery
Janice Potter
Jan Nielsen

Brian Young
Norma Duane
Angelika Zollfrank
Rhonda Tibbetts
Pat Quinn
Wendy
Carol Van Cleave



New Prayer List Procedure - We will be changing the way that we do the prayer list. Names will automatically remain on the prayer list for 3 months and then will need to be renewed. You may request removal or addition of a name at any time. Please review all the people on the prayer list and update Valerie as to how they are doing. This will help ensure that the list remains current. Thank you for your help.

LOVE IS AN OPEN DOOR

Sometimes work means sitting down and playing through some chords on my guitar in order to organize my mind — it's admittedly nice work if you can get it.

Yesterday that was a part of my day because I've been pondering what "forward" looks like during a moment when it feels like we're being pulled backwards by the direction of the various variants vying for COVIDical dominance. I was strumming and singing just a couple lines that were running through my head, and the line love is an open door popped out so I played around with it a little bit to some good effect. It's not Grammy-worthy, but it's good enough for my yard.

The idea of love being an open door is a powerful image for me — and not simply because our family has seen Frozen approximately fifty-five thousand times. It's a metaphor Jesus uses to describe God's presence and love. The Gospel of John uses the metaphor of Jesus being an entrance, a door, or a gate in several ways, two of the most famous being "I am the gate for the sheepfold" and "no one can come to the Father except through me". This does at least seem imply that there's some sort of condition on entering, and the fact that Jesus continues at one point with 'those who would rob or harm the flock hop the fence, but the sheep enter through the gate' (New Eric Translation) indicates that this is intended as some sort of security measure.

On the other hand, we often respond to passages like this as if Jesus continued by commanding us to guard the door. Just because there's a gate doesn't mean it's our responsibility to guard it. Throughout scripture, the theme of God's judgement, God's righteousness, God's mercy, and God's vengeance are the exclusive property of God, proper only to God. This means that as tempting as it is to guard what is given to us through the waters of baptism with all our might — and that gift is adoption into the family of God — Jesus dictates to us that our family values are exemplified by the Commandments of Two Loves: Love God; Love each other (as I have loved).

As we think about this, we come to realize something important. In the same way God is the one who holds all authority to judge who is in and out, Jesus says I am the gate; I am the Good Shepherd. This I am indicates more than a simply identity of responsibility, it identifies the calling and authority of Jesus as being identical to the calling and authority of God. This phrase is part of how we understand that Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity. If you've seen me you've seen the Father, and the Father and I are one are just two examples of Jesus describing his identity as being sent by God to us so that God might dwell among us as a sign of the love only the Creator can have for creation.

The job of us children of God isn't to judge someone's worth, but to call home everyone we meet. Follow me to the gate, I'd love to introduce you to my family! This is our sacred duty, the role of the saints in light, the calling of the Church, and the life of the redeemed. It's in this guileless invitation that others begin to experience God's love for what it is: simple, honest, all-encompassing. We don't guard the gate, we throw it open and bring anyone we can to the door. It's up to God what to do with them from there. All we can do is share what's first given to us: our selves, our time, and our possessions — the signs of God's gracious love, as my favorite offertory prayer goes.

The family of God is five thousand who ate their fill of bread and fish, then went to the gate because they wanted more. At the gate they were told what the true meaning of this meal is, that it's spiritual food rather than physical food. These have the opportunity to enter and feast, or go back to the pasture until they're called home.

The gate was never closed because God's love is an open door.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Eric

NEW OUTDOOR SPACE FOR CHILDREN AT ST. JOHN

We are in the beginning stage of exploring a plan to transform our tired out “Tot Lot” near the Memorial Garden into a “Musical Garden” that will offer an inviting space for children to play and build relationships with one another. Our goal is to create a welcoming space for all of us at St. John. We invite the Congregation to take part in the planning. Please share your feedback on this concept by contacting Carrie Stamos at carrie637@msn.com and Suzanne Steinbach at suzannesteinbachster@gmail.com.



THE 2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING WILL BE IN MINNEAPOLIS FROM JULY 24-28, 2022!



This is an inspiring opportunity for youth (Grades 8-12 as of Fall 2021) to gather with other Lutheran teens from across the country to worship together, share experiences and ideas, and serve through citywide service projects.

Registration begins soon. For more information, please contact Michelle Rose at mrose@stjohnsudbury.org or 508-320-7245.



YOU CAN HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE!

Are you inspired to share your favorite Bible stories and lessons?
Do you enjoy working with young people?
Do you enjoy developing relationships with others?

If you answered, YES! YES! And YES!, please join the St John Teaching Team! We have openings for teachers at the Preschool, Early Elementary, Late Elementary, Confirmation, and High School levels. You just need enthusiasm, patience, and faith. We will meet with Pastor Eric monthly to review upcoming lessons, and projects and game ideas will be provided.



If you are interested, please contact Michelle Rose at 508-320-7245 or mrose@stjohnsudbury.org.

KIDSPACE IS MOVING FORWARD

Kidspace met a new milestone this week! The modesty panel that we removed to make room for Kidspace has been shortened in length and anchored to provide a handrail for those coming up the center aisle. The rail is now extremely sturdy, and it provides a physical boundary for Kidspace and reduces visual and noise distractions. Prior to that, the platform was removed, and many folks had a role in drilling out the pew anchors. We are currently working with AJ Rose in Natick (thanks to the several people who pointed us toward them) on a new floor covering for the space as there are holes in the current carpet where the pew anchors used to be. The new look has allowed us to imagine various ways to use the space. Our excitement is building!

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback on how to incorporate Kidspace into the sanctuary and create an enriching and safe experience for all worshippers. Special thank you to our craftsman Chris Stamos for his carpentry skills and drilling equipment and efforts, to Carrie Stamos for her assistance, to Mike Misslin, Paul Haugsjaa, Pete Rhoads and the rest of the Facilities team for helping to drill out anchors and figure out how to get this done!



AMIRAH IS TURNING 10!

You are invited to celebrate our 10th Anniversary at this year's Voices of Hope celebration. Join us on either Friday, October 1 in Woburn, Massachusetts or Friday, October 8 in Hartford, Connecticut!

You can participate virtually or in person with your favorite face mask!

This is the time of year when we can gather our community, share about our work, and support the women we serve. This year, you will walk through a guided exhibition of our programs and be able to participate in some of the activities and recovery elements we conduct in our everyday work. You'll be able to meet with staff, take a deep dive behind the scenes of AmiraH, and spend time with us in community.

Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.amirahinc.org/> We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

With Hope,
The AmiraH Team



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
HAITI CRISIS

AUGUST 2021

ELCA.org/disaster

In August 2021, a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti. Over 1,400 people were killed, and thousands more were injured. Blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies to hospitals. At least 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.

communities to meet relief needs, including food, nonfood items and temporary shelter. Other areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock.

For over two decades, the ELCA has maintained a presence in southern Haiti through support for agricultural and sustainable development work. To continue our engagement with those communities, Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the

Your gifts will support earthquake survivors. Gifts to “Haiti Crisis” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquake until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.

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Yes, I want to help!

- Lutheran Disaster Response: Haiti Crisis \$_____ IDG0017
- Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$_____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** and write “Haiti Crisis” or
“Where needed most” on your check’s memo line.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.